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15 1917 Erzincan Trial II

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THE ARCHIVES OF THE TURKISH COURT-MARTIAL OF ERZINCAN

To the Attorney-General of the Court-Martial:

Is it [?]perhaps necessary to prolong Fayik Efendi's imprisonment or confine him [?]inopportunately? We have been informed that he is remaining in prison until now by virtue of a writ of temporary imprisonment.

On this occasion, please communicate your authoritative observation. (opinion)

April 4, 1917

President

Considering the circumstances by which Fayik Efendi has become lieutenant-officer, we find the prolongation of the writ of imprisonment handed down against him inopportune because the completion of the investigation opened on his account has been pending for quite some time. The prolongation of his imprisonment without a ^{trial and} verdict is inexcusable and it is not right that he remain in prison while other accused persons have already been set free.

April 5, 1917

Attorney-General,

Sefik

opinion

In accordance with the above judgment of the attorney-general, we find the prolongation of the writ of imprisonment handed down against Fayik Efendi ^{? without cause} unnecessary and release him. ¹

It was decided to send only a summons so as to be able to ensure his presence and send a notice to the commander of the military garrison of Sivas to verify the condition of his military service and the detachment (in which he has served).

April 7, 1917

President

Judge of Inquiry

Ali Sabri

1

The Attorney-General, despite the fact that Fayik Efendi is entirely guilty of having massacred and pillaged Armenian caravans he led, has the right to set him free because the trial has not been completed.

With the intention of ^{continuing} deepening the investigation left half completed and terminating it, when we critically perused this dossier attached to the Ninth Division and transferred to the inquiry commission, it became clear that, during the initial days of August 1915, the criminal events of plunder, pillage and violations suffered by the Armenian caravans deported from the vilayets (provinces) of Erzirum and Trebizond and their surrounding ^{districts} burghs to interior areas of the country have been the object of investigation of the aforementioned committee.

However, other reports or notices concerning various crimes committed at the same time, differing in place, circumstances and criminal character or nature, have been attached to this dossier

* was the way tried because he was not tried

7
and mixed up in one or two of the abovementioned crimes on the basis of active complicity established in the case of only a few individuals.

Aside from this, for example, in the case of representatives or governors-general subjected to judicial proceedings, investigation has been undertaken, without giving importance to necessary special legal formalities and the dossiers of examination have thus remained jumbled, deficient and incomplete.

And, it is already clear from the beginning of the examination, in accordance with the provisions of Articles 45 and 59 of the law and penal code, that, at no time, have the advice and opinion to be given by the attorney-general been taken into consideration.

Therefore, it is fitting and proper that the dossier mentioned be transferred in its entirety to the high ministry of the office of attorney-general, from whom it is required that a petition be prepared and presented, consistent with his point of view or judgment, which shall determine and define the accused persons to be subjected to prosecution, the nature and manner of their punishable deeds committed, and establish, separately or together, the degree of their responsibility.

May 11, 1917

President of the Court-Martial of Sivas

Major Mustafa

We scrupulously examined the aforementioned dossier in its entirety and we ^{do not} [?] ~~don't~~ find necessary and legitimate reasons to subject, at present, those representatives or governors-general, whose names are mentioned in the records of the inquiry commission, to legal investigation and turn them over to legal action.

Despite this, we demand of the high investigating committee that it bring together and complete the investigation or examination of those military police officers and members of the Special Organization, whose names are mentioned in the dossier and who have abused their offices, while carrying out the responsibility undertaken by them to exile and drive the Armenians, plundered and usurped large sums of money from the deportees instead of remitting those sums to the federal treasury.

June 17, 1917

Seal: Office of the Attorney-General of the Court-Martial
of Sivas

SAMI

¹
Imam of Nezkıp, ^uYasuf Zia Efendi's Second Testimony

May 17, 1917

I witnessed the forced seizure of the wagons and goods belonging to deported Armenians.

The forced seizure took place on orders from Sadi Bey and Mahir Bey.

¹
Moslem religious person.

The Armenians were allowed to take their desired possessions from the wagons.

It was impossible to take them along owing to the fact ^{did not} that a road didn't exist. The Armenians left all their goods with their carts.

Sadi Bey and Sergeant-Major Muhieddin Efendi of Sivas, non-commissioned military police officer, deposited these abandoned goods and possessions in the connecting rooms of the local (Nezkip) mosque and sealed the doors.

Then, ^{Possessions} (as) I learned later, Halit Efendi and Ahmet Efendi took and carried off the new and useful possessions from the lot and tax-collector Hafiz Efendi again sealed off these rooms, after filling them with the old, worn-out and useless possessions, left.

These goods were so old and worn-out and filthy that they gave out a putrefying odor. Lastly, Nuri Efendi of Erzin-can, Müdür (burgomaster) of the district of Ehtik, opened the doors to those rooms but, upon seeing the putrefied and fetid possessions, closed and sealed them again.

The rooms mentioned still remain sealed to this day.

I have no knowledge of events and occurrences which have taken place outside of Nezkip and vicinity.

Question: Wasn't a share of these goods and booty given to Şaban Aga and some of the notables of Nezkip?

Answer: ^{have not} I haven't seen and ^{do not} don't know whether or not a portion was given to them.

Q. Do you know the bandit named Kamil Aga? Did you not see him selling some of those goods here and there?

A. I saw him here. He remained in Nezkıp for a few days, but I ^{did not} didn't see him sell any goods or possessions. He had tried to hold a woman and keep her. But kaymakam (district-governor) Rifat Bey heard of it; the woman was found and exiled.

Q. What valuable and attractive possessions were there among the Armenians' goods?

A. They didn't permit us to go near the mosque, around which the police force had formed a ring.

I only saw from a distance that something or other made of silver, like a long amuletic piece of armour, was shining in the hands of Halit Efendi, chief (müddir) of Cimis village.

^{did not} I didn't see anything else.

I saw carpets without pile (matting made of yarn), mattresses, robes, shoes and wool to be spun etc. among the goods forcibly seized and transported by Ahmet Efendi and Halit Efendi.

Judge of Inquiry

May 17, 1917

Imam of Nezkıp

Member of the Court

Yusuf Zia.

President

We are sending this dossier of records to the office of the attorney-general of the court-martial of the Ninth Detachment for examination; we request his instructions regarding those accused persons examined and not subjected to interrogation, as well as the case of writs of temporary imprisonment being opportune or inopportune.

May 12, 1916

Seal: Inquiry Committee of the Court-Martial

In the meantime, after questioning Necati Efendi of Erzurum, it has been confirmed that he has taken refuge in the village of Gemerek in the vilayet of Sivas.

In these legal examination papers are mentioned the names of the members of the court of first instance, presided over by Necip Bey who, as member of the court of appeals, has presently assumed the position of legal councillor in Kayseri. As concerns their imprisonment, following instructions to approach our council, ^{petition} we are returning this dossier to the presidency of the inquiry committee of the Ninth Detachment.

October 13, 1917

Mehmet Zöhdi, Attorney-General of the Court-Martial of the Ninth Detachment

The aforementioned Necip Bey and Necati Bey were questioned. We wrote to the necessary places to complete other questions which became manifest from their statements. ^{Authorities}

We request that you instruct that which is fitting and proper regarding those charged whose statements have not been taken as ~~of~~ yet, those accused whose imprisonment has become possible on the basis of sufficient proof and evidence gathered, and those persons whose legal term of imprisonment has elapsed. With this request, we are transmitting the dossier to the office of the attorney-general.

November 3, 1916

Seal: Inquiry Committee of the Court-Martial of the Ninth Detachment.

When the examination is finished, we shall explain our viewpoint regarding imprisonment.

In order to complete the interrogation, we are returning the dossier with its attendant sections.

March 21, 1917

Attorney-General Şefik

gathered

When Sadi Bey ¹ ~~took~~ and drove the Armenians, only a few ^{substitute} ~~simple~~ soldiers were left to watch over this saddle-bag. (suppose)

On his return, Sadi Bey did not find the bag.

Upon seeing the loss of the bag, Sadi Bey uttered these remarks, "If only I had lost 750 gold pounds (\$26, 250) in place of that bag !"

1

The word "drive" is used in Turkish to mean annihilate along the road.

Q. You stated above that Halit Bey had kept Armenian women in his house or held them. ^{Prisoners} Can you say how many women he kept and who those women were?

A. In his palace, he kept seven (Armenian women) as servants, and eight (Armenian women) as domestics; ^{they 26 together} he kept about fifteen Armenian women. I don't know what their birthplaces are and what their names are. Some of these (women) are staying in his palace until now.

Q. When Sadi Bey and Canip Bey searched the Armenians in the church, you gathered up, in the school, and lifted the fallen briquets (implement to light tobacco). What do you have to say about this?

A. The door to the school, which was full of wallets, tobacco cases, matches, cigarette papers and different kinds of briquet-like apparatus, had been left open. Like everybody else, gendarmes and Kurd ^{or} ruffians, I went too and took ten or eleven briquets and also four tobacco cases and gave them as presents to different people; there wasn't even one left for my sister.

Living in Kemak, police force company commander,
retired first lieutenant,

Ahmet Rusdi

This is the testimony taken under oath from Yusuf Mustafa, Imam of the village of Nezkip, a native of Sunki village, two hours' distance from Nezkip, married, father of several children, literate, 39 years old, from the family of Fadel.

what is the difference
between servants and domestics?
is there a difference?

used to be a school

Many
Q. Numerous Armenian caravans passed through Nezkıp. Were there persons who ^{stole} ~~usurped~~ their moneys and valuable possessions?

A. Sadi Bey, Canip Bey, Mirza Bey, and Kamil and Arif Beys, gendarmerie lieutenants, and Muhieddin Bey, one of the officers of the police force of Sivas, and Hamdi Efendi, teacher in the school for non-commissioned officers, were generally in charge of exiling and driving the caravans of Armenians, which were passing through and going from Nezkıp. I haven't ^{not} ~~seen~~ whether or not they have taken anything ~~or other~~ from the caravans.

Q. Many ox-carts, full of goods, have been abandoned (by the Armenians). Didn't you also see these?

A. Halit Efendi, chief (müdir) of Cimen village, and Ahmet Efendi, member of the administrative council of Erzincan, came to Nezkıp. They opened the doors of those two schools, in which those goods were stored, and which were connected to the mosque. They loaded sixty-nine large and small bundles and took them out of Nezkıp, but I ^{do not} ~~don't~~ know where.

Kadri Efendi, burgomaster (müdir) of the district of Ahtik, claimed the carts and sent them to Kemak. And the oxen of eighty-five carts became the gangs' share of the booty.

Q. Ali Bey has kept several Armenian women in his house. Do you know anything about this or not?

A. I ^{do not} ~~don't~~ know. Once, Tuluyi Bey himself looked for those women. At that time, they were being kept in Sadik Bey's house. During that period of time, I was at a place, six hours' distant from Kemak. I ^{do not} ~~don't~~ have any information about it.

Q. ^{Ac2} Aren't there Armenian women in Şaban Efendi's house?

A. Only an eleven-year-old Armenian girl has been kept as a servant.

May 26, 1916

Imam of the village of Nezkıp

Yusuf Zifa.

This is the testimony of Aziz, son of Şaban, elected muhtar of Nezkıp as of February (1916), father of children born in Nezkıp, illiterate, 51 years old, from the family of Seyh Suleyman.

March 16, 1916

Q. Who was the previous muhtar and where is he now?

A. Ahmet, son of Zaza Oğlu Ibrahim, was muhtar for one year.

At the end of the year, they elected me muhtar. Presently, he^s is in the village.

Q. Were there persons who forcibly seized possessions and goods from the Armenian caravans passing through Nezkıp?

A. At that time, I was ill; I haven't^{no} seen anything and have no knowledge of anything.

Q. There were Armenian girls in Şaban Ağa's house; how many were there?

A. Besides a 13-14 year-old Armenian girl, there weren't any other Armenian women.

May 16, 1916

President	Member	Judge of Inquiry	Village chief
			of Nezkıp

Q. What were you going to do with the violin?

A. I got it (the violin) from an Armenian caravan ^{from Erzurum} for three mecidiye¹ (\$21); I didn't^{not} steal it, he said.

Q. Answer the question as to whether or not the goods taken from the tailor Nusan's house, which was converted into a store, were put up for sale.

A. Nusan, the tailor, owed me three gold pounds (\$105). It was impossible to collect this money in cash; in place of the money, I was forced to take merchandise which consisted of special women's apparel; my wife sold some of these garments without asking me; the rest of the goods are at my house, he said.

Number 7. See the minutes of inquiry, p. 104.

1

One Turkish gold pound == 5 mecidiye (\$35); 1 mecidiye (\$7) - 20 piastres; 1 piastre - 35¢

First-lieutenant Suleyman Efendi, first company commander of the police battalion of the permanent garrison of Erzincan, and non-commissioned officer Tewfik Efendi, lieutenant-commander of the first company of the mobile police detachment of the Erzurum region, who had undertaken the task of deporting the Armenian caravans of Erzurum from Erzincan to Agn, had gotten^{got} half a gold pound (\$17.50) for each one of the 130 trucks used to have the road made and four or five gold pounds (\$140-\$175) also as fee for each mule hired to transport each family. They hadn't^{not} paid this money in Agn to those who let out the mules for hire, after whose flight they

money collected ^{once} again (from the Armenian caravans). And the kaymakam of Agn has taken this money from their (Suleyman and Tewfik) hands and given the sum to the owners of the mules. Regarding these ^{these} ~~kinds of~~ abuses, automatically Veli Efendi, assistant to the commissar of Erzincan, who had the job of escorting the Armenian caravans, has issued a report on August 24, 1915, ^{the} whose result has been given, and, on that occasion, those persons considered wanted have been summoned and interrogated.

Correspondence has been carried out with the keymakams of Agn and Arapgir and, consistent with the reports enclosed with the reply communicated and the dossier, the quantity of the money collected and declared for the wagons has not been legally established.

Tewfik Efendi has taken 26 Ottoman gold pounds (\$910), a gold watch and a silver tobacco case given to corporal Ismayil, and turned them over to the government.

As ^{or} per page 5 of the minutes of the examination carried out, although first-lieutenant Suleyman Efendi states that muleteer Deli Halil of Çimen has taken 180 gold pounds (\$6300), on page 53 (in accordance with the minutes), however, Deli Halil of Çimen mentioned has taken only 150 gold pounds (\$5250) and declared that he has divided this amount ~~up~~ among the muleteers ^{has} and given the list of names of the muleteers.

The gendarmerie commander has summoned the muleteers on September 1, 1915; however, they ^{not} haven't until now appeared (at the station) and ^{not} haven't been interrogated.

In accordance with the ⁷testimonies recorded on pages 17-26 of the inquiry papers, the house of Captain Ismayil Efendi, ex-gendarmerie commander of Erzincan, has been searched, and a special carbine, used by the Rumanian cavalry, and a Russian weapon without a lock, which have been seized and turned over to the service of ammunition, were found there. *It*

Aside from this, concerning the question raised about the kind and quantity of money found in a purse, he (Ismayil Efendi) has replied that the whole amount is 85 Ottoman gold pounds (\$2975). Although this statement has been found to correspond to the truth, the (Inquiry) Committee, however, has judged as dubious that ^{the} circumstance whereby an English gold pound was also found among those sums of money; this (English) gold pound has been taken and put in to reserve at the court-martial. They have returned the remaining 84 gold pounds (\$2940) to the captain, judging that such a sum can be found on his person normally. Nevertheless, it has been deemed necessary to ^{investigate} ~~scrutinize~~ the matter.

The government has had the home of first-lieutenant Suleyman Efendi searched, and the commission of abandoned goods has taken possession of certain goods, the list of which we are enclosing.

Captain Ismayil Efendi has been summoned by the army commander's office, while first-lieutenant Suleyman Efendi, by the court-martial, and, since the matter falls within the limits of jurisdiction of same court-martial, it has been decided unanimously to transmit the same dossier of inquiry, with its attendant

sections to the Court-Martial of Erzurum and we compiled and presented the report at hand accordingly.

President of the Special Court-Martial of the 29th Division

Kaymakam Mehmet Fehmi

Member - Major Mehmet Galep Bin Hassan;

Member - Major of Guard-troops, Ali Akber;

Member - Captain

Member - Captain

This is the record of the testimony made before the committee by Nizameddin Efendi, garrison chief of Ahtik village in the district of Kemak, lieutenant-officer of gendarmerie established in Erzincan.

September 6, 1915.

Q. Write your identity.

A. I am head of the police detachment of Ahtik village in the district of Kemak in the sancak of Erzincan. My name is Nizameddin; my father's name, Mustafa; my birthplace, Unya. I graduated from the police officers' academy in Constantinople on April 1, 1915.

Q. You have gone and taken one saddle-bag, full of gold pounds and valuable goods, from the "Yaliniz" vineyard. Where did you get this saddle-bag from? What were its contents? Then whom did you turn it over to? Did you get a receipt? Speak.

A. I can't remember the exact day and date; one day, at ten o'clock Turkish time, ex-battalion commander Ismayil Efendi

Stol 4M ✓ summoned me. He spoke to me about a saddle-bag full of money, which the police force of Gümüşhane filled with the booty plundered from the Armenian caravans and which their corporal had sealed. And he (İsmail) ordered me to take Bas Çavus Halit Efendi and a cavalryman with me, go and bring the bag.

✓ Consequently, I went to the "Yaliniz" vineyards with Bas Çavus Halit, two cavalrymen, and the corporal who had sealed the saddle-bag. There we actually saw a saddle-bag loaded and sealed, and a few burlap sacks of goods in a room.

We loaded the goods on a mule. I sent it on its way with a mounted guard. We also tied the bag to the rear of the saddle on Halit Efendi's horse and returned, accompanied by the cavalryman.

We arrived at the gendarmes' station about ____:30. The battalion commander, together with the central company commander Suleyman Efendi, was waiting for us in front of the police headquarters.

We took the saddle-bag to the battalion commander's room.

The battalion commander opened the bag in the presence of Suleyman Efendi, myself and one of my comrades, non-commissioned officer Ahmet Namuk. In it there were valuable goods kept in small bags; among other things, there were a watch, an earring, a ring, a belt, a silver tobacco case, a smoking pipe, and change in two handkerchiefs. ²⁵ *new*

Because it was nighttime, the battalion commander looked over the items cursorily and again filled the small bags with them and deposited them in the battalion safe. I didn't ^{not} feel it was necessary to get a receipt when I turned over the goods, because I

trusted them and, in case of need, I could summon Suleyman and Namuk Efendis to testify.

Q. Did you put the saddle-bag, with its flaps open or closed, in the safe?

A. The bag was not put into the safe. The goods had already been placed in bags and handkerchiefs.

July 6, 1915

Nizam Eddin.

This has been extracted from the statement of Suleyman Efendi, permanent gendarmerie lieutenant.

Date of statement: October 10, 1915

starting from p. 77

p. 82.

Q. After the summer was over, what did you need the mosquito-net for? Five months had passed since the beginning of the deportation of Armenians. Didn't you need a mosquito-net before now?

A. I couldn't^{not} work with my hands. I couldn't^{not} make it.

Q. What were you going to do with forty-four chairs?

A. I was going to furnish three rooms.

Suleyman

An investigation was carried out in the presence of Suleyman Efendi and a group of soldiers; a sum of 800 piastres (\$280) was found which was first turned over to the battalion and then, with a receipt, to the financial office.

In my absence, a second search ^{was made} occurred; a sum of 2548 piastres (\$891.80) was found, which was turned over to the financial agency on July 29, 1915 with company notice number 3.

Q. Supposedly, in your house, there is a weapon with shiny silver parts on its edges; what happened to this weapon and where did you take it from?

A. Pharmacist Mehmet Efendi gave me that weapon as a gift which I sent to my house in the country.

Ismayil

List of goods found on Selim, corporal of gendarmerie of Kuru Cay
pp. 58-60

Number	Quantity
106	Ottoman gold pounds (\$3710)
2	Russian " "
3	French " "
	English " "
58	No. 20 Russian bank-notes, each worth 25 <u>Manet</u> .
1	golden necklace
1	gold bracelet consisting of ten rings ^{links}
1	gold adjustable bracelet
1	bedcover made of camel hair
1	silver belt
	various silver and gold tools weighing half an oka (1 ³ / ₈) _{lbs.}
2	knives
3	swords
1	saddle

List of goods cont.

- 1 scimitar
- 1 silk scarf
- 2 epaulets - one for men, one for women.
- 1 saddle-bag full of linens.
- 8 pairs of white woolen socks
- 128 silver spoons
- 2 gold cups
- 1 thin collar with 5-6 strings of pearls
- 2 bars of soap
- 3 pistols, American Karadag
- 1 coffee grinder
- coffee service for six
- 1 ivory binocular
- 1 pair of high-top shoes
- 1 brush
- 1 silver tobacco-case
- 1 silver water pitcher
- 1 gold weight
- 2 purses made with silver thread
- 3 European handbags for one-half oka
- 1 handbag for 6 oka
- 1 amber rosary with 33 beads
- 3 bottles of perfume
- 1 golden scissors

It consisted of these items.

In Kuru Cay, I held the position of chief of the police force command. Isma^{il} Efendi came there on official business; in the office, he immediately searched me from ^{head} ^{to} ~~top~~ to ~~bottom~~. Hafiz Ali, head of the Refayie company, Mustafa, head of the Kemak company, and lieutenant Nizam ^{ett} ~~Edin~~ were present. He (Isma^{il}) took money from my pocket amounting to about 10 gold pounds (\$350) and then, malevolently, searched my house too, picked up needle and thread, as was shown above, and caused my ruination. - what do you mean here? *

Q. Are there persons who know that you are the owner of these goods?

A. When persons went to the site where the Armenian caravans had stopped for rest, a distance of fifteen minutes from government headquarters, they would ^{steal} ~~take~~ (plunder) beddings, quilts and other goods. I also got the necessary goods at a cheap price. ¹ Many people saw that I made purchases, but I ^{not} ~~don't~~ remember their names. When I was taking a few things, only Selim Bey, villager of Çiftlik, and official of census Lutfi Efendi saw me.

September 3, 1915

Corporal Selim

¹ He has purchased gold coins with his money; he also purchased a half ^{*} oka of silver and gold. It is not known how much money he must have had to purchase that many items at such a CHEAP price.

He is lying; he has simply stolen them.

And his witnesses, Salim of Çiftlik and Lutfi Efendi, are comrades who stole with him.

* state weight of oka

Without being opened, it (the saddle-bag) has been handed over, together with the animals. When the abovementioned sum was found in the possession of private soldiers and taken, the lieutenant-commander of the brigade (half division) was also present in the office of the battalion. Correspondence regarding this matter has also been carried out with the reserve regiment ^{commandant} of Gündshane; it is possible to verify the facts from there.

Q. They brought this saddle-bag to you and, without counting its contents, you placed it in the safe. You only open and close the safe. Why didn't you turn it (the saddle-bag) over to the commission (of abandoned goods)?

A. The commission of abandoned goods wasn't ^{not present} formed at the time we opened the saddle-bag and counted its contents. In accordance, with the order of the mutessarif, I kept it in the safe. There was no other key to the safe; I kept the key. Today the battalion has entrusted me with the care of 2000-3000 gold pounds (\$70,000-\$105,000) because there is no officer (in charge).

Q. They brought the saddle-bag at night and, without counting its contents, you put it in the safe right away. Why didn't you count the items the next day with someone ^{present} else? A few days later, the commission (of abandoned goods) was set up and how many days did you keep this money in your safe?

A. I don't ^{not} stay at the government office in the evenings. All the offices of the battalion are closed. Nevertheless, the next day even, any suspicion was absurd since the saddle-bag had been sealed and was opened in the presence of three soldiers.

The commission (of abandoned goods) was ^{organized} formed a few days ago before the arrival of the Governor-General. However, the commission was also unable to ^{make} any arrangements and take any decision regarding this matter, and, despite the many appeals made to take and keep these goods, ^{the commission} it showed an uncooperative disposition; the first time goods were turned over to it, it was impossible to get ^{inventory} a notice of even a part of them. This is the reason why it (the saddle-bag) remained in the safe for about one and a half months.

Q. Since you had the key to the safe, it was necessary for another person also to seal it (the safe) with you. Why didn't you consider this detail?

A. Besides Suleyman Efendi, who was absent due to his continual involvement in prosecutions, there ^{wasn't} ^{not} another officer present each time and the secretary of the battalion was also absent.

We are forced to have the battalion's funds remain with a ^{responsible} warranted person (sponsor). In case of shooting even, a separate order ^{had not} ~~hasn't~~ been conveyed to us to seal the safe [?] thusly.

Q. From which area were the police troops soldiers who brought this saddle-bag? What sort of investigation has been carried out in regard to them?

A. The police troops (gendarmes) were soldiers from Siran and Kilkit. The officer has gone to take them under custody and ^{not} ~~hasn't~~ returned. For this reason, he has reported to the battalion commander by telegram as regards the investigation.

Q. A large valuable ring has been taken from Mollah Bekir of Cimen. ^{Do} Don't you have any information about this?

A. The ring wasn't^{not} taken from Bekir but from Ceris Oglu Ahmet Efendi. The latter got it from the muleteers. According to information received from the chief (müdir) of the village of Cimen, the ring mentioned has been seized and handed over to Mecid Bey, President of the Branch of National Defense.

p. 47

Q. How much money was there in the two large purses taken from the Primate of Erzurum and the priest^{of} Hassan Kalé and where is this money now and where and to whom has it been turned over?

A. Inquiry regarding this matter should be made to the police because the police commissioner is the one who searched the purses. Subsequently they have been turned over to the National Defense Foundation. I have never seen them.

Q. What do you know about carts and horses? Tell us.

A. According to what I heard, they have been turned over to the service of the volunteer base area train by the police.

Q. You have taken a pistol from a Ukrainian who came as a tourist. What did you do with it?

A. The pistol has been given, with a receipt, to Tahsin Efendi, lieutenant-officer of the Third Army staff, by order of the Mutessarif.

Q. Recently, the Armenians working in military factories have been transferred to the battalion working on the roads in Sansa. Substantial sums of money have been taken from them during the^{period} course of transfer. Who took these sums of money? How much money was there and where and to whom has it been handed over?^{to}

p. 49

A. Ahmet Efendi, member of the administrative council, designated by the commission, (took) from only one of their (Armenian laborers') caravans... *what?*

Company-head,

Ismayil.

Q. Did you mix up the money "brought" with your own money during the investigation?

A. Yes, I put all the ^{notes} moneys together.

Q. ^{Didn't} Doesn't the mixing of the moneys together thus give rise to suspicion?

A. No, it ^{not} can't give rise to suspicion, because the ^{monies} moneys were taken essentially in accordance with the report compiled and thus handed over to the financial service.

Q. The moneys ^{not} didn't have to be mixed together. How was it done?

A. The moneys ^{has} have been recorded in the report with their value. When the ad hoc dossier prepared comes out, you ^{will} see that the English pound is calculated at 120 piastres (\$42).

Q. Are you saying that the English pound is yours?

A. All moneys ^{has} gotten from outside have been remitted to the Financial Department. From this standpoint, it is mine.

Q. Have you sent household goods and furniture to Sivas and Tokat?

A. No, I have never sent anything. They have been sent to my sister's and deceased brother's homes.

Q. You say that when you were coming from Tokat, you didn't^{not} bring any goods at all with you. So where did you get those two rugs from?

A. I got those two rugs in January for 145 piastres (\$50.75) in Sultan's market ^{good belonging to 2 women} from a woman's goods, for sale, which had been put up for auction, through Aglama Zade' Ahmet Efendi and in the presence of Mecid Bey, inspector of the financial office of accounts; I bought the black one too from ⁷ sitting itinerant peddlers; as far as the other one is concerned, my sons brought it from Van.

Q. In answer to the question "When the trunks were being searched, in them there were a gold watch, an earring or ring; what other things were there?", you said that whatever there is, is in them, while there were articles made of gold in Diarbekir, one gold watch, a pair of bracelets, five gold pieces (pounds) (\$175), one flower-shaped ornament, and two rings, which were found (in the trunks), taken from women. Why did you keep these ornaments?

A. The men ^{did not} don't know where the women keep their special possessions; fearing the children, the ladies keep them and put them aside because they were going to depart in the morning.

Some of the other goods are the handiwork of Sivas ^{Artisans}, which I bought from Diarbekir for ^{five} five gold pounds (\$175) when I was in Kurdistan. I learned from them that the watch too belonged to the captain's brother Abdul Rahman who recently became a martyr in Persia.

Q. Two Mauser rifles have been found, one large, the other small. Where did you get these weapons from?

A. I got these two Russian rifles (one is especially for cavalry) from the pharmacist Mehmet Efendi. When we were engaged in target-shooting practice with the governor-general at the place called Cenik, governor-general Bey found my rifle old and worn-out. ^{Do not} "Don't use it, throw it away," he said. ^{will} "I'll send you a rifle." Five or six days ago, I gave the rifle to a person named Hassan of Tokat; he took it and went. ^{sw24} The other one was left in the house to be returned to Mehmet Efendi.

I brought one of the weapons from the Balkans; I haven't ^{not} used it because it didn't ^{not} have any cartridges. For that reason, I took this weapon from Mehmet Efendi.

Q. Necessity demanded these forbidden weapons to be turned over to the arsenal; ^{is it not so} isn't that so?

A. I am an itinerant official; I am obliged to carry a weapon at all times; to this day I carry a weapon, especially these days. Even the army has given instructions not to seize any weapon possessed by the people, with the exception of weapons belonging to the government.

Q. First lieutenant Suleyman Efendi, through the intervention of Bas Cavus Halit and lieutenant-officer Nizam Eddin Efendis, sent from the "Yalunuz" vineyard, one saddle-bag full of money and goods and twenty loads of miscellaneous goods; all of these items together have been valued at 1800 gold pounds (\$6300⁰). When did he bring these goods to you and what did you do with them?

A. Yes, first-lieutenant Suleyman Efendi, Nizam Eddin Efendi and Halit Cavus, and seven or eight soldiers with them, brought from

isolated

the "Yalunuz" vineyard, in broad daylight, a saddle-bag sealed with the signet of corporal Huseyin, from the military garrison of Gümüşhane, full of money and jewels, to the company post.

There second-secretary Rifat Efendi and first-lieutenant Suleyman Efendi counted the contents ^{in the bag} in the presence of the ~~ee~~ convert Namuk Efendi, myself, and my orderly Yacup.

The sum of 12,500 piastres (\$4375) and precious gems, which have been recorded in detail in the battalion dossier, have been remitted to the financial service. As regards the twenty loads of goods, they were turned over to the National Defense Branch because the commission of abandoned goods was still not formed.

A. I don't ^{not} know how the sum of 385 gold pounds (\$13,475) was spent; I heard from the pharmacist Mehmet Efendi that he (Mehmet Efendi) took possession of all the goods contained in Sarkis Ipekian Efendi's store and his household furniture and wares as well, ^{2 w. after possession} Micika's and Mahank's pharmacies and the pharmacy opposite the large mosque, in addition to money owed, with the understanding that the former is ^{with} supposed to send it to their (Ipekian family's) place of exile. (pl 33-34)

This is the summarized testimony of Mehmet Tefvik Efendi, commander of the first company of the second mobile battalion of Erzirum.

August 27, 1915.

Q. You and first-lieutenant Suleyman Efendi, commander of the police force company established in Erzincan, have undertaken the task of driving the cařavans of Armenians of Erzurum to Agn. How many soldiers were there in your and Suleyman Efendi's companies?

A. In my company, there were twenty-four, and in Suleyman Efendi's group, one horseman and one foot soldier. Of these latter two, one was named Dürstün; the other, Kamil of Agn.

My company was composed of Memiş Oglu Osman Çavus, Ahmet Oglu Hassan of Amasia, Hassan, son of Osman of Ordü, Osman, son of Hassan of Erzurum, Riza, son of Mehmet of Erzurum, Mehmet, son of Afif of Erzurum, Samil, son of Hassan of Erzurum, Temir, son of Mehmet of Karahissar, Mehmet, son of Mustafa of Smyrna, and Osman, son of Raduan of Karamuk.

On August 25, 1915, lieutenant Suleyman Efendi has made a second statement. It is contained in the record of inquiry from page 20 to the end of page 22 and is continued on page 30 to page 69. He has given information concerning the large volume of goods brought into the open from his residence, and machines and precious goods, as to where he got them from, where he brought them, etc.

Excerpt from the statement made by Hacı Mahmut, son of Ismail of Sivas, commander of the police force established

in Erzincan, beginning with page 20.

Q. How many months ago did you come here from Tokat and how much goods did you bring with you when you came?

A. I came to Erzincan on January 25, 1915. I had sixty gold pounds (\$2100) with me. I got twenty gold pounds (\$700) of this sum from Mutessarif Memduh Bey who owed it ~~et~~ to me.

In terms of goods, I had a portable bedstead, a bearskin, a rug made in Sivas, a saddle-bag, one felt cloak, linens, etc.

Q. We asked how many gold pounds there were in your purse. You said there were eighty-five gold pounds (\$2975). You gave a negative answer concerning foreign paper money, whereas, in the purse, there were eighty-four Ottoman gold pounds (\$2940) and one English pound. Where did you get the English pound from and how did you increase your sum of sixty gold pounds (\$2100)?

A. I haven't gotten foreign currency from anywhere. This time, when the examination was completed, I brought with me a sum of about sixty gold pounds. Probably this sum got mixed up with my own money that I had on me. The money added to the sixty gold pounds was from my monthly salary; I'm a captain; I receive a monthly salary of 1200 piastres (\$420) and I live here alone. I didn't send money anywhere and, in this way, my savings increased.

Those fifteen police troops, which I was supervising, were sent by Mutessarif Bey to Gümüşhane without any legal formality being undertaken against them.

Q. Did you get a receipt for those goods you turned over? ^{to whom?}

A. No, I turned them over without getting a receipt. We counted only the money. We didn't ^{not} count the other items because it was already late in the day. After counting ^{the money} it, they put it in the safe in the presence of Namuk Efendi and Nizam ^{ett} Eddin Efendi, officer of the Kemak company. We counted the money too; it amounted to 120 gold pounds (\$4200); we didn't ^{not} count the other objects; all in all, their value was approximately 1800 gold pounds (\$63,000).

Presently, lieutenant-officer Nizam ^{ett} Eddin Bey, in active service at Kemak, and non-commissioned cavalry officer Halit Efendi, in active service at Erzincan, brought the same amount here from "Yaliniz" vineyard in a saddle-bag.

At that time, I was ill. (was he present or not?)

The reason for not getting a receipt for the consignment of money and valuable goods is that we, together with captain Ismail Efendi, battalion-commander, found money and other goods on soldiers after the search. We put them, together with the contents of the saddle-bag brought from "Yaliniz" vineyard, in the safe after sealing it with the signet of the gendarme commander.

Mutlue
recounted

Captain Ismayil Bey, commander of the police force, got two hundred gold pounds (\$7000) from Imam Kemal Bey, ^{native} villager of Mahsuri Ekre; I ^{not} don't know, however, whether or not he remitted that sum to the financial service. The aforementioned 120 gold pounds were turned over to commander Ismayil Bey in the presence of above-named Nizam Eddin Efendi, ^{ett} non-commissioned officer and ^{native} villager of Namik, the judge of Erzincan and myself. We were all there.

Only, the saddle-bag had been brought at night, the judge was absent; the others were present. That money and those goods were placed in the sealed safe with Ismayil Efendi's signet.

Q. Do you know whether these goods were removed to some other place a few days later?

A. Captain Ismayil Efendi, commander of the police force, and Mecid Bey came the next day. Ismayil Efendi opened the safe; after looking over the watches, rings and other items, they put them back in the safe which captain Ismayil Efendi locked, and then he left. I have no information as to where and to whom they (the valuable items) were later handed over. ^{to}

Q. After Captain Ismayil Bey and Mecid Bey looked at and examined the watches and rings, ^{did} didn't they make an inventory of them?

A. No, again they ^{not} didn't make a list of them.

Q. Did you hear that Captain Ismayil Bey, battalion-commander, ^{had} has brought money from other places too?

A. Based on what I heard, they brought about five-six hundred

gold pounds (\$17,500-\$21,000) from Kuru Çay, but I don't^{not} know where or to whom they turned over this money.

p. 25 He answered our question concerning weapons, saying, Halit Efendi, müdir of Çemin, and Ahmet Efendi, official of National Defense, one day during the Moslem fast, around 11:30, ^{2m-or pm?} brought three American carbines to the mutessarif's residence in a vehicle belonging to an Armenian.

I heard that they later gave one of those weapons to the chief accountant of the financial office in Erzirum, the second to the accountant of Erzincan, and the third to pharmacist Mehmet Efendi of Erzincan.

Q. -p. 27- The question was asked as to whose homes the goods seized from the Armenians were transported. He replied.

A. I saw that they were transporting all the goods and furniture, worth six hundred gold pounds (\$21,000) in Artin Efendi Lepian's house to Mayor Halit Efendi's house.

I inquired of the coachmen and heard from Hacı Yusuf Efendi, merchant of Agn, that he (Halit), saying that Mucukian Efendi supposedly owes him 380 gold pounds (\$13,300), took, in place of this sum, his (Mucukian's) three houses, all his goods and furniture plus the deed. ^{of the houses} Today, those goods are only worth two thousand gold pounds (\$70,000), while...

The caravan was not in Nezip; it was in an open area, ^{explain} fifteen minutes (distance) from Nezip.

I arrived there in the evening; the caravan was kept there until morning. I slept near the khan-keeper; Canip Bey, under a

large mulberry tree. Sadi Bey, meanwhile, went to Nezkıp.

The next morning, in accordance with a communiqué sent from Sadi Bey to Canip Bey, we took the caravan to Nezkıp. We merged the caravan in a wheat field in the vicinity of Nezkıp. There Sadi Bey searched the Armenians and gathered ~~up~~ all their money. — He threw the money into the open saddle-bag placed in front of him. Canip Bey, ^{also} in turn, was standing over the bag. There were about 1200 gold pounds (\$42,000) in one section of the bag, while the other portion was half full of jewels. Goods belonging to the church, i.e. church vessels, were among them.

^{this was} These moneys were taken from the Armenians of the second caravan of Trebizond, and the caravans of Basra and Keskin. 161 oxen ^{were} have also been taken from the caravan of Keskin and brought to Saban Aga's house.

Sadi Bey and Canip Bey and their associates took those jewels and money. Among them there was even a gendarme of Keskin, corporal Çavus; he put the bag, after loading it, on a white horse. The next morning Sadi Bey and Canip Bey departed towards Kemak, taking with them two guards (soldiers of the special organization) to protect the money.

Tuluıı Bey, chief of the Cimış district, knows these guards

Q. Sadi Bey says that you woke him up that morning and went with him to Nezkıp. The one who saw the person who was killed and fell to the ground ^{reported} gave word to the attorney-general. They sensed the situation and arrested you. You then gave Sadi Bey a sum of about 65 gold pounds (\$2275)

and a package of jewels. Is that right?

A. I didn't^{not} give any money to Sadi Bey nor did I give (him) any jewels.

May 9, 1916

Cavalry-lieutenant Mirza Mazhar

The Confrontation of Sadi Bey and Mirza Efendi

You said that Sadi Bey and Fuat Bey have exacted promissory notes from Sarafian and other Armenians and collected money equivalent to the ^{amount} (sums) designated in the promissory notes by means of their attendants.

Sadi Bey says (to you) outright that such a thing isn't^{not} true. He asks what proof do you have pertaining to this matter.^{regarding}

In answer to this question, Mirza Bey says that Sarafian has told him the facts of this matter but he doesn't^{not} know whether they have taken money or not.

The males in the Armenian caravans of Trebizond and Erzurum have been confined in the church of Kemak. Halit Bey and Canip Bey have sat in the Armenian school; they have had four or five Armenians at a time brought to them from the church, taken their money and sent them out. Mustafa too was present during the search.

You were saying that, besides the ^{men's} valuable men's articles, they also found about 1200 gold pounds (\$42,000) on their persons. Sadi Bey tells you outright that such a thing has

¹²⁵
never taken place.

Directing his remarks to Mirza Bey, he says that he saw from where he was and gendarme corporal Zia and Elias and various other soldiers have understood to a certain extent, and retired pensioner (mārekiat) (72) Rusdi Efendi, captain of Kemak gendarmefie too, being a neighbor to the school, should have seen the search; you can get information from him. By his own testimony, during the course of the search of Armenians carried out by Rusdi Efendi, Sadi Bey and Canip Bey, he has collected numerous briquets from the school by attacking them (the Armenians). Mirza Efendi attests to this.

In accordance with Mirza Efendi's second testimony, penal court president Necip Bey, being at that time vice-^{Arriat} Kaymakam, since the money collected from the Armenians by Sadi Bey and Canip Bey was remitted to the governmental treasury, he said 'why did you carry out an investigation' to superintendent officer Mustafa Efendi, by whose ^{order} notice...

Mirza Efendi was asked whether "the packages were separate." He replied, "I have heard about this from Tuluyi Bey, mādir of the district of Cimen (Cesin); he had said 'a sum of 30,000-46,000 piastres (\$10,500-\$16,100)'. You can demand an explanation from Tuluyi Bey about this."

Sadi Bey was asked whether he, together with his associates, had taken a sum of about 40,000 gold pounds (\$1,400,000) from the Armenians of Tercan. Sadi Bey replied, "I saw Tercan for the first time during our retreat. I didn't ^{not} encounter the Gara-

vans of Armenians of Tercan any place. All the things said ^{not true} are unfounded. My comrades and I have never entered within the boundaries of Tercan."

Mirza Bey declared that he has given Sadi Bey sixty or seventy gold pounds (\$2100-\$2450) and jewels.

Sadi Bey and Mirza Bey confronted each other.

where should?
Sadi Bey declared, "The money and jewels had been placed in a bag slung over the shoulders. Mirza Bey, together with his servant named Davud, came to my (Sadi Bey) room in Nezkıp and said, "You shall turn over this bag to Teskilât-ı Mahsusa² or my sole superior, Ruat Bey"; saying this, Mirza Bey handed the bag to me.

Meanwhile, Mirza Bey declared that he hasn't ^{not} turned over such a thing to Sadi Bey, yet he said that Sadi Bey and Canip Bey have collected money and jewels from the Armenian caravans in the region of Nezkıp, loaded them in a saddle-bag and taken it to Şaban Aga's room. He (Mirza Bey) added that the next morning they promised to give thirty percent of same amount to the guards of caravans and that, at the time, some of these guards have served under him (Sadi Bey), as Davud No. 72, of the soldiery of No. 71 Omar Efendi, official of the Gümüşhane warehouse, and likewise No. 72 Mehmet, of the soldiery of that place's (Gümüşhane's) military garrison.

May 9, 1916

Accused'

Mirza Mazhar
Sadi of Rize

Judge of Inquiry-Ali Sabri
Président - İsmail
Magistrate-member - Reşit.

Mirza Efendi, upon entering the hall of the school building in Kemak, announced before the Inquiry Commission that he saw Sadi Bey and accomplices who took money and precious gems from Armenians and that gendarme Osman, an eyewitness, can attest to this fact.

After this statement, Mehmet Osman, 22 years-old, son of Ali of the borough of Macka, one of the Kemak battalion gendarmes, of the Erzincan police force, was summoned who declares that he is ^{willing} able to testify and, in accordance with the law, after swearing him in, they record his testimony.

May 9, 1916.

On the previous page, Osman's condition is recorded. It is his statement. ^{identity}

Lieutenant Sadi Bey and Canip Bey of Erzürum and Dr. Fuat Bey, during July of last year, took the Armenians confined in the Kemak church in groups of four-five, to the school building where they searched them and took their money and valuable possessions. Tell us what you ^{have} seen or heard about this.

A. During those days, I was guard-inspector of the Armenian children who had been scattered all over and then gathered together and confined in the school building.

Sadi Bey, present here today, and another officer, ^{who} whom I didn't ^{not recognize} know, took the Armenians confined in the church outside one day, searched them and took the money and jewels found on them, put them in a handkerchief and departed towards Halit Bey's palace.

Q. Where were these Armenians from and how many were there?

A. They were from the caravans of Armenians of Trebizond brought by Mirza Bey and there were about a hundred of them.

Q. Where did they carry out the search?

A. They searched them in the garden opposite the church. I was in the school and observed them from behind its lower wall.

Q. Who else was there with you, witnessing this event?

A. During that hour, I was serving guard duty ^{alone} and saw it. There wasn't another person with me.

I had come to Kemak as a soldier from the district of Gemerek on a courier mission. There weren't ^{not} enough soldiers there; they assigned me guard duty for two hours. When I accomplished my mission, I returned to Gemerek.

Five-ten days later, I came to Kemak with the müdür and there, in the police barracks, I saw Mirza Efendi interned. The first time I came he wasn't ^{not} ^{under arrest} in confinement.

Q. Do you confirm your testimony?

A. Yes, I confirm it.

Witness - Mehmet Osman

Q. Where was Mirza Efendi then?

A. Mirza Efendi was there.

Q. Mirza Efendi and you were employed as guards or watchmen.

Why did you allow Sadi Bey and Canip Bey to take the money?

Can you be more specific?

A. We are bandits (cete), they said; they didn't^{not} pay any attention to our efendi.

Q. Did they^{to} have you understand what they would do with the money?

A. They didn't^{not} say anything about this. He only said to us, "You are on guard duty; I shall give you 30% of the amount." Contrary to this promise, he got up and left.

On our return, we found him in Erzincan. We demanded what he had promised. "We gave it to your officer there," he said. "Go and see Mirza Efendi." He told us this as if he didn't^{not} receive anything. During that time, Mirza Efendi hadn't^{not} been confined.^{arrested}

Q. Did you complain to anyone?

A. Against whom were we to protest? We protested to God.

May 15, 1916

Omar of Kilkit, son of Osman,
from one of the warehouse units
of the military garrison of Gümüşhane.

The record of the sworn testimony of Seyh Davut, son of Abdul Kadir, orderly of captain Omar Efendi, of the military post of Gümüşhane.

Q. State your identity.

A. My name is Seyh Davut; my father's name is Abdul Kadir; my surname is Munla İsmayil Oğlulari. I am from Mardin,

married, and have children. I don't^{not} know how to read or write. I am 29 years old. At the present time, I'm^{am} the orderly of Captain Omar Efendi, officer of the Gümüşhane garrison warehouse.

Q. During the forced deportation of Armenians, did you go anywhere with Mirza Efendi? If so, where?

A. The caravan of Armenians from Trebizond passed through Gümüşhane. Omar, one of Mirza Efendi's valets, Hindi of Bitlis, one of the mutessarif's servants, a few military police and I were designated as inspectors and guards of same caravan and we drove the caravan up to a bridge, this side of Agn, and there we turned the caravan over. ^(to who?)

Q. Was a rest period granted to this caravan somewhere in the region of Nezkıp and what took place there?

A. We stopped for a few days; Mirza Efendi had been ^{detained} confined in Kemak. In his place, a young person by the name of Canip Bey had taken control of the caravan. Canip Bey drove the caravan to the top of a hill near Nezkıp and ^{halted} stopped it there.

There were no men in this caravan, only women. Five or six soldiers, whose names I don't^{not} know, were accompanying Canip Bey. There I only learned one of those soldiers' names, a Kurd named Kamil.

There Canip Bey had his men search all the women and they took from them gold watches, gold watch-chains, rings and bracelets and ~~similar~~ valuable jewelry, and put the

money into a saddle-bag. Sadi Bey also came. They loaded this valise on the back of one of the men and departed towards Nezkıp. At the time of departure, Sadi Bey ordered me to come and see him in Nezkıp at 8:00 PM to get my pay.

At night, Mirza Efendi and I went to Nezkıp. Sadi Bey was resting in the home of a man whom I didn't^{not} know. I went with Mirza Efendi to see him and demanded the remuneration promised me. He postponed the matter till the following day.

After this, Mirza Efendi and I went to a place, a quarter of an hour distant, where the caravan had stopped. The next morning at sunrise, we went again and found Sadi Bey's house; he was about ready to leave, his horse ready. Mirza Bey stayed at the house and fifteen minutes later he too left on horseback. He said, "Tomorrow or the next day we'll ^{will return} come to Kemak. I'll ^{will} give you your pay there."

We drove the caravan and turned it over at the place designated. When we returned to Kemak, Sadi Bey wasn't^{not} there.

Mirza Efendi's servant had left for Erzincan before we did. There I didn't^{not} see either Sadi Bey or Mirza Efendi's foot-soldier

I inquired about our remuneration. He informed us that Sadi Bey has demanded it and that Sadi Bey has given it to Mirza Bey. I don't^{not} know whether he has actually given it to Mirza Bey or not.

May 15, 1916.

Judge of Inquiry Member President

Hoca Ali

Resit

Ismayil

Seyh Davut,
orderly of captain Omar
Efendi, official of the
Gümüşhane storehouse.

Summary of the Testimony

Sworn testimony was demanded of Naim Cavus Efendi, son of Alemdar Zade Yausus, a native of Gümüşhane, 22 years old, gendarme for seven years, secretary of the Kilkit company headquarters, of the military police battalion of Gümüşhane.

He replied, "At that time, I didn't see Ibrahim Edhem Bey, kaymakam of Kilkit, as well as others and haven't heard of them having taken money and precious gems from the Armenians."

Q. The objection was made that Naim was aware of the fact and has told others that the kaymakam's guard stood in front of the door of the church, in which the Armenians were confined, and Hacı Mehmet Efendi entered (the church) and collected money found on Armenians.

A. I was assigned the task of taking the Armenians out of the church and delivering them to Fikri Efendi. County bookkeeper Mehmet Efendi and police commissar Hakki Efendi prevented me from entering the church when I went there. They said, "Stay outside; their (the Armenians') names are now being recorded; a little later we'll turn them over to you." I waited outside; finally I went to the gendarmerie guard house and got gendarme guards ready. The caravan consisted of only 70-80 women. The men had been driven previously. The kaymakam was there. Hacı Mehmet Efendi had two five-pound gold pieces (\$2.50) in his hands and I saw also one Mahmudiye gold coin. These three gold pieces

1 gold coin of 25 silver piastres issued during the reign of Sultan Mahmud.

were strung on a strap. In response to my question, he said that these pieces have been recorded and shall be turned over to the kaymakam.

I don't^{not} know from whom these gold pieces had been taken and whether or not they were actually handed over.

May 10, 1916

Secretary of the gendarmerie company of
Gümüşhane

Naim Çavus

This is the record of the sworn testimony given by Mehmet, son of Osman, soldier of the Gümüşhane arsenal.

May 15, 1916.

Q. State your identity.

A. My name is Mehmet; my father's name is Osman; my surname is Ali Paşa Oglular. I am from the village of Şehir in the district of Kilkit, 38 years old, married and have several children. I don't^{not} know how to read or write. I am a worker in the fields; now I'm^{am} one of the soldiers attached to the Gümüşhane arsenal.

Q. During the deportation of Armenians, you have accompanied Mirza Efendi as a guard. Where did you go?

A. When the caravan of Armenians of Trebizond was passing through Gümüşhane, Davut Hindi, on orders of the governor,^{assigned} designated me and a few other soldiers as guards. We drove the caravan up to the Iliç bridge and surrendered control of it there.

Q. On the way, you stopped somewhere in the Nezkıp region and three persons who were neither guards nor overseers came there. What did they do?

A. We remained in the Nezkıp region for two days. Two men came there. While they were ^{talking to each other} conversing, I learned their names; one's name was Sadi Bey; the other's, Canip Bey. If I were to see them, I would recognize them. They had a group of men (cete) ¹ under their command.

They sat in the public square; they opened up a saddle-bag. They brought Armenian women, in groups of five, and searched them; they loaded one ^{part} section of the saddle-bag with silver, gold and jewelry and ~~half~~ ^{half} the other with pure gold coins. They didn't ^{not} take silver money, only gold.

Sadi Bey's and Canip Bey's mercenaries were the ones who carried out the search. I don't ^{not} know their names. They gave the responsibility of searching the women's privates to an Armenian woman whose name sounded like "Mamalik."

This Armenian woman was in the caravan from Trebizond and departed with that caravan.

Sadi Bey, Canip Bey, and their ^{companions} co-workers, with the saddle-bag slung over their shoulders, departed in the direction of Nezkıp. We, in turn, took the caravan up to the Ilic bridge.

Mehmet, son of Osman

¹
gang of murderers

A. If not, then they have left for Iran with Fuat Sabit Bey.

I don't^{not} know.

Q. You supposedly ^{Knew?} have a Kurd by the name of Kamil Aga, and this man sold clean new jackets and pants taken from Armenians in the market place of Kemak. Do you know anything about this?

A. I don't^{not} recall a soldier by that name, said Kurd, member of the "special organization" and under Canip Bey's command. I haven't^{not} had any dealings with this man; I haven't^{not} seen him sell jackets, pants and other clothes.

Q. Offering to release Sarafian from the caravan of Erz^eirum, you and Fuat Sabit Bey demanded money from him and, because he didn't^{not} have the money, you drove him with the caravan having passed through previously so that, removed from his family, he would be in debt to you; he signed a promissory note in your name and gave it to the man you sent. A few other rich Armenians had joined the caravan with Sarafian and they sent about 740 gold pounds (\$25,900). What has occurred in regard to this matter?

A. I haven't^{did not get} gotten a banknote and postal notice from Sarafian or Serafim, and I don't^{not} recall having seen such a thing in Sabit Bey's hands. I don't^{not} know what the contents are because I haven't^{not} seen Sarafian nor do I know him. Nevertheless, I think it was during those days that denial of Sadi Bey's trial related to this matter was pronounced and the investigation left incomplete.

Senator

Q. Through Ahmet Riza Bey, you sent to his sister in Constantinople a package containing 36,000 piastres (\$12,600) or whose contents were worth that amount. Did you send money or jewelry?

A. From Erzincan, I sent Ahmet Riza Bey's sister, who is my mother, a postal package worth 22,000 piastres (\$7,700), a belt or sash made of thin interwoven silver thread, two bracelets made the same, one made of metal, the other silver, two men's watches, a ring, a small gold woman's watch, an amber smoking pipe, a dozen silver dessert spoons, a silver tobacco case (snuff-box) made in Van, two silver whip handles, which I had made in Erzincan with my name engraved on them also, a copper cup for traveling, a purse made of woven fabric, and two packages of candles.

Q. Where did you get all these items from?

A. Aside from the silver whips, I purchased these valuables in Erzincan, where the goods abandoned by Armenians had been put up for sale with the approval of Fuat Sabit Bey and in the presence of Mutessarif Bey, Mecid Bey, and pharmacist Mehmet Efendi. I paid six gold pounds, two mecidiye and a few piastres (\$225) for these goods. I'm also placing value on a worthless letter; in any case, (I'm doing this) to be safe and, in event of loss, to be able to secure compensation for said loss from the post office. This is why I had the items recorded with a value of 22,000 piastres when I turned them over to the postal clerk.

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^{sweat}
Q. Now confirm your statement.

^{sweat}
A. I confirm it. (1)

May 8, 1916.

Sadi of Gökci

Cavalry-lieutenant Mirza Efendi's second statement

May 9, 1916.

Q. Have you given money or jewelry to Sadi of Gökci?

A. At no time have I personally collected money from Armenians; I haven't ^{not} given money to Rusdi Bey either. I was imprisoned in Kemak; they released me from jail and again assigned me the task of supervising the caravans. At Nezkıp, the caravan was under Canip Bey's authority. I went to Nezkıp with my orderly. Canip Bey was at the head of the caravan; Sadi Bey was also with the caravan.

Mirza Mazhar.

I learned that they took the caravan as far as the village and rested there. When I arrived in Nezkıp, Mirza Efendi was ^{in command} at the head of the caravan. I returned to Kemak with Canip Bey. Mirza Efendi got the caravans ready and went towards Agn. Besides this, I have no information whatsoever about the Trebizond and Spir caravans. Let me add that no one from these caravans was confined in the church or in a house in Kemak, and Canip Bey and Halit Bey have never been with me at the school or any other place to pillage the caravans from Trebizond and Spir. In Nezkıp,

(1) The point isn't ^{not} that 36,000 became 22,000 more or less; the amazing thing is that a bandit buys that many costly items in the presence of the governor and pays only 6 gold pounds.

Mirza Efendi gave me the 60-70 gold pounds (\$210-\$245) and some of the jewelry mentioned in my first testimony.

Q. You have stated previously that you have gone to the village of Nezkip because the roads were all torn up so that you could deliver the immovable carts. What did you undertake to do there and what did you do?

A. When I arrived in the village of Nezkip, I found the carts, animals and the owners of the goods loaded on the carts. The carts hadn't been able to go beyond the village. For this reason, the men wished to leave the carts there. Every one tried to put his cart in the yards surrounding the village mosque and school, and they turned over their oxen and carts, getting a receipt from me. I ascertained the number of carts and oxen and gave the priest of the caravan a bill. They turned the goods and furniture over to the Imam of the village or to the council of elders.

Canip Bey and I sealed the door of the room in which they ^{stored} accumulated the goods. And the council of elders gave me a note certifying that nothing was missing from the goods, on the condition that it be handed over to the governmental official who was coming. In order that the villagers not slaughter the oxen, we took these animals with us to Kemak and, after branding the oxen there, we turned them over to the police guardhouse. I got a receipt but it's ^{is} not with me at present. As regards the number of animals, in all likelihood, there are either 71 or 171.

I kept Halil Rifat Bey, Kaymakam of Kemak, Memduh Bey, Mu-
tessarif of Erzincan, and Fuat Sabit Bey, chief of "Special Orga-
 nization", informed as ^{regarding} regards the goods. I don't ^{not} know whether
 or not they sent any money to pick up the goods. I also don't ^{not}
 know the particulars regarding the personal possessions of those
 deported.

Q. The caravan from Erzurum also arrived in and passed through
 Kemak, naturally. It could be that the caravan was searched
 and the goods taken.

A. After driving the caravans of Trebizond and Spir for quite
 some time, Dr. Fuat Sabit Bey came from Erzincan to Kemak.
 This time I learned that the caravan would be taken in three
 groups towards Kemak. No one from the caravan of Erzurum has
 come to Kemak. When Fuat Bey reached Kemak, I ¹ naturally was
 removed from my position and, for a time, I remained in Kem-
 ak with permission to rest before returning to Erzurum since
 I'm ^{Sw} not involved in the driving, and deporting of and provi-
 ding rations for the caravan from Erzurum. Fuat Bey made
 every decision personally, and carried them out with the
 collaboration of mercenaries under his command. He (Fuat
 Bey) didn't ^{not} need my aid, cooperation or ideas. I had gone off
 and was resting. A week after Fuat Sabit Bey's arrival, I
 also went with him to Erzincan. I stayed one day and returned
 to Erzurum by the Papert road. Fuat Sabit Bey remained in
 Erzincan.

1

This means that the caravan was massacred along the way.

In any event, when Fuat Sabit Bey was coming here, I didn't^{not} see any bag or package on him.

Q. Do you know any of those ^{persons} having been under Fuat Sabit Bey's orders?

A. If I were to see them, I'd^{would} recognize every one of them. I don't^{not} know their names however. They had gone to Erzurum to join forces with Yakup Cemil Bey's groups. Yet, I wonder if they joined up with ^{the} same regiment...

Sadi.

The second testimony given by Fayik Bey, officer in the Trebizond police force.

May 7, 1916

Q. In answer to a question, on page 50, you had said that Mirza Efendi has taken 7000 gold pounds (^{\$245,000}). Were you an eye-witness to this event or did you hear it from others? Can you prove it?

A. I wasn't^{not} there. Murat Bey, gang chief sent by the governor-general Bey,⁽¹⁾ spoke to me about it. I had also heard about it. Even our company commander Agah Bey stated that Mirza Bey had gotten 7000 gold pounds when he (Agah) gave me (Fayik) instructions to collect the money possessed by the Armenians and added that we, in turn, take the money and send it to them.[?] The amount of money that I took by force from Armenians was 305 gold pounds (\$10,675). Of this sum, I sent 155 gold pounds (\$5,425) with Ismail of Rize to company commander

(1) Jemal Azmi Bey

Agah Bey and Murat Bey. I heard from them that Mirza Bey has taken 7000 gold pounds (\$245,000); I don't^{not} have any other information.

May 7, 1916

Officer of the mobile police force battalion of Trebizond:

Fayik.

This is the testimony of Sadi Bey, son of Sururi Bey, reserve sergeant-major, commanding officer of the 2nd regiment.

May 8, 1916.

- Q. Mirza Efendi, assigned the task of transporting or deporting the Trebizond caravan, has taken it as far as Kemak. As a result of an incident, he has given this position to another person and he (Mirza) has remained in Kemak. 1244 individuals from this caravan and other caravans following it have been taken to the church. You, Halit Bey, Canip Bey and a few other individuals were in the Armenian school at that time. You have had them brought to this school building and have taken, besides their jewelry, a sum of about 1200 gold pounds (\$42,000) from them. What happened to this money?
- A. I wasn't^{not} aware that Mirza Efendi brought the caravan from Trebizond as far as Kemak because I had gone to Nezkip. The caravan from Spir, which had arrived previously, had been driven in the direction of Nezkip, about eight hours' distance from Kemak, and, owing to the obstacles encountered along the torn-up road, I took charge of the carts and animals of

the (Spir) caravan rendered immovable and kept them safe.

During the day, the weather was hot; I walked at night and returned to Kemak. Mirza Bey, who was the head guard-inspector of the Trebizond caravan, woke me up early in the morning. I learned from him that the caravan had reached Kemak at night and spent the night there.

I went with Mirza Efendi to the resting place to look over the caravan. There I got word that Mirza Efendi killed someone from Kemak. At once, I reported it to the attorney-general and others. A half hour later, the latter came and arrested Mirza Efendi.

The same evening I left for Erzincan to inform the higher authority about Mirza Efendi's arrest and, at the same time, get instructions to drive the caravan.

Nevertheless, before leaving Kemak even, in order to prevent the gathering together of those remaining (members) of the Trebizond and Spir caravans turned over to the supervision of Cavus and the caravan from Erzurum which was to probably arrive there, I told Canip Bey that it would be more appropriate and opportune to drive the caravan to Nezkıp and wait there. He proceeded accordingly. The same night I left for Erzincan with Halit Bey and another person who was related to him. I stayed there five days. On my return to Kemak, I didn't find the remaining members of the Spir caravan or the Trebizond caravan either. Canip Bey...them...

Sadi.

Q. Macit Bey has abducted the two daughters of Sarafian, native of Erzincan, and sent them to Constantinople. Explain this matter.

A. Nihat Bey, son of Rifat Bey, has spoken to me about this; I heard the following: Macit Bey has carried off two girls; he has ^{stolen} usurped the sum of 1200 gold pounds (\$42,000) belonging to them; he's ^{has} also taken a boy; first he placed them in a pharmacy in Erzincan and then took them to Constantinople.

Q. In the dossier of examination, on page 50, Fayik Bey states that you have taken 7000 ^[# 245,000] gold pounds from murdered Armenians.

A. I didn't ^{not} count it; I don't ^{not} know how much money there was in the bag; I can't ^{not} even determine the amounts. As I had said before, I kept the money in the room. When I was imprisoned in Kemak, I wired (it) to governor Abdul Kadir Bey; he turned it over to the government.

The judge of inquiry and the president of the penal court searched me; they questioned the postal administration about the money that was found on me and, when, in turn, it was established following the inquiry, by post office records, that my father had sent me that money, they gave it back to me. This money probably amounted to seventeen gold pounds (\$595). If evidence can be brought forth to prove that it was 1700 gold pounds (\$59,500), then I am prepared to accept the severest penalty.

Q. What other information do you have? Tell us.

A. Sergeant-major Suleyman Efendi, company-commander of the Erzincan police force, now retired, took rings and other valuables worth 200 gold pounds (\$7000) from Huseyin Çavus, from the village of "Kizilköy" in the Erzincan region, who was ^{stole} deporting the Gümüşhane caravan to Erzincan and who pillaged these items from the Armenians and had placed them in a saddle bag. Huseyin Çavus had turned the bag over to two gendarmes in a place called "Yaliniz" Bag and ordered them to wait there for him to return so they could depart together. Later Suleyman Efendi got this bag from these two gendarmes. (See below).

explain
The caravan had hardly reached Erzincan when Isma'il Efendi's men went into it and carried out an investigation. A soldier from Tokat named Incé Mehmet has made an inquiry of this matter. The result of the investigation did not establish that they had taken valuable goods from the Armenians. At that time, Isma'il Efendi had Huseyin Çavus summoned and severely threatened him; Huseyin Çavus confessed the truth.

After this, Isma'il Efendi sent sergeant-major Suleyman to Yaliniz Bag and had brought from there the sealed saddle-bag which he took to the police guard house. I don't ^{not} know what happened to the money afterwards.

Aside from
~~After~~ [^] this, when I was returning to Kemak by the Ilıc bridge, on the way, in the region located between the Nezkıp and Dicle rivers, two hours' distant from the Ilıc bridge,

I saw the carts of the Erz^erum caravans loaded with 2000 bundles of rugs and numerous full trunks. There I also saw two safes on two wagons. All of this had been abandoned there because the road wasn't ^{not} ready for traffic; only pedestrians and animals could pass ^{over} beyond there; the road was impassable for carts.

Some of these abandoned carts and goods were transported to Kemak by order of Halit Bey, mercenary of the 'Special Organization' and müdür of the Cipin district; in accordance with the information given, Suleyman Efendi, one of the notables of Kemak, ^{stare} usurped the rest. Although Suleyman Bey has been summoned to court, the matter has somehow been settled and he has been released. I don't ^{not} know if any of those goods have been taken to Halit Bey's house. I haven't ^{not} seen any such thing, but heard ^I it from Suleyman Bey of Kemak. Suleyman Bey even said that, while he was in prison, no examination was carried out regarding the goods taken by the Beys and transported to their houses; the government has permitted the placement of those abandoned goods there and when the government official sees the rugs in Halit Bey's house, he pretends not to see them, so therefore the goods bought with our own money should ^{not} be noticed either.

Ask him and the fact of the matter will be confirmed.

April 24, 1916.

Accused: Mirza
Mazhar

Q. In the paragraph beginning with the words "Every Kaymakam", are you referring or do you wish to refer to all the Kaymakams or not? Which ones are they?

A. I don't^{not} mean all the kaymakams; rather, the kaymakams of Kuru Çay and Refahiye and the local company commander of the police force. In Kuru Çay, they armed two soldiers named Maruf and Zekeria from the village located near the Ilic bridge who pillaged the Armenian caravans.

I don't^{not} know the one from Refahiye; Tatar Selim should know him.

Q. Who is Koço Oğlu Osman from the Sagirlar section of Kemak and who killed this man? When, why, where and in whose presence did he kill him?

A. I made a mistake in giving Canip Bey's name here in this instance; he (the killer) is Sadi Bey. The corpse of Koço Oğlu Osman is near the caravan taken and driven by Sadi Bey. It is probable that Sadi Bey killed him when they were killing and massacring the Armenians; a few bullets must have strayed and hit the shepherd Osman mentioned. There were three bullets. They weren't^{not} found the day Osman was killed; three^{was} days later, Osman's daughter found the bullets and informed the government of the event. At that time, I was in jail in Kemak. We saw the caravan driven by Sadi Bey from the prison windows; the caravan started on the road from Kemak at 8:00 in the morning; he took the caravan, which consisted of 700 persons, to a valley located near the Sagirlar section, about

one hour's distance. There he and his accomplices massacred and killed the Armenians in the caravan. Some then fled too. In Kemak, Sadi Bey personally told about this massacre in public.

Q. Who sent the deposit worth 36,000 piastres (\$12,600) and to whose address in Constantinople?

A. That deposit was sent, through the Kemak post office, from Erzincan to Constantinople. I had gone to the post office on business; there I heard from the officials that this money or the package worth this sum was addressed, in care of the President of the Senate in Constantinople, Ahmet Riza Bey, to his sister _____ Hanum.

Still I can^{not} verify this exactly; perhaps it was a package; if not, something else with appreciable worth turned^{was} over to the postman. This ⁺ transaction, carried out after the month of July, should be recorded in the postal and telegraph offices of Kemak and Erzincan.

Q. Who was the man killed by Cafir Bey of Yerenc Hindi and why did he kill him?

A. Cafir^a Bey had plundered and robbed quite a few oxen from the Armenians and brought them in front of the governorate of Ickale. The local commander wanted to seize the oxen for the government. Cafir^a Bey killed the commander's factotum^e (Nefir). Due to this, the commander had Cafir^a Bey arrested and sent him to Erz^ezurum, where he went and did as he pleased without even being put into prison. I don^{not}t know very much about this. Mehmet Necati, known by his surname Piré Mehmet, is aware of

this matter, just as I, as well as Adil Bey of Kerzen Zadé descent, have heard things from Mehmet Necati. I ^{not} ~~don't~~ know who the person killed is.

Q. Who killed 33 Moslem soldiers in Kigi?

A. I heard about this from Mehmet Necati Efendi, representative of the "Special Organization", while he was imprisoned. Supposedly the governor-general Bey had them killed. If Mehmet Necati is summoned, he can relate this event in detail. (1)

(1) Sadi Bey massacred 700 Armenians.

Regarding this matter, the judge ^{not} ~~didn't~~ ask the ^{butcher} ~~massacrer~~ or another person who the ^{butcher} ~~massacrer~~ was, who the massacred were, where they were coming from and why they were massacred. He ^{not} ~~couldn't~~ ask because instructions to the contrary were given to him by the Ministry of the Interior, War Ministry and Justice Ministry. However, they asked the criminals how many piastres they had stolen and to whom they handed over the sums. The Court-Martial existed just to investigate the cases of plunder. Only those ^{robbers} pillagers, who ^{not} ~~hadn't~~ given the government its share of the booty, appeared before the court, and quite often the judge took his share from the ^{robber} ~~plunderer~~ and then simply released him.

Q. What proof can you offer that Hulusi Bey and Raif Bey have taken 4000 gold pounds (\$140,000) from the Armenians deported from Tercan?

A. I heard about this too from Mehmet Necati Efendi. I ^{not} ~~didn't~~

witness it personally and actually don^{not}t know. Mehmet Necati Efendi can explain this matter also.

Q. What do you mean by the words "agent or agent of the police force commander of Erzincan" at the end of your statement?

A. I don^{not}t know them personally. Rifat Bey Zade Nihat Bey of Erzincan spoke to me about this matter when he was in jail with us. In accordance with the information given by him, the battalion commander of Erzincan had the Armenians ^{robbed} plundered by means of this man.

Mirza Mazhar

I was informed that the persons mentioned were at Halit Bey's palace; they had taken the money there.

Q. As a man of taste, Halit Bey had selected and kept Armenians of the fair ^ssex; who were these girls?

A. He had separated 41 Armenian girls and women from the caravans that were driven ahead of the one I took and kept them in the home of Saban Aga, muhtar (chief) of the village of Nezkip.

Seydi, Canip, and other bandits were already house guests of this Aga.

They also picked adolescent girls from my caravan; all of them were beautiful. "Take just the ugly ones," I said to them; they didn^{not}t take them. I, in turn, didn^{not}t turn over the pretty ^{girls} ones to them.

They carried off fifteen women from other caravans too and sent them to Kemak to Sagir Sadek Bey's selamlik. Following instructions given by the army commander, Tuluyi Bey, administrative ^{not} müdir of the nahiye of Karbek, searched for them but didn't find them. They sent some of these women to Agn; the rest were permitted to remain at Halit Bey's house.

Then, in accordance with the order given, they merged 25 Armenian women with my caravan. The rest were supposedly driven to Kemak.

Q. Weren't you ^{not} able to find out anything from the members of their families?

A. At that time, the kaymakam (governor) of Kemak was away; the president of the penal court was his locum tenens. Governor-General Tahsin Bey had dispatched orders to deport the Armenian women located in Kemak. On this occasion, the kaymakam's substitute, the president, sent word to Halit Bey; the latter denied everything. After this, an order came to open an investigation and the responsibility of carrying out the investigation was assigned to Tuluyi Bey. As a result of the investigation, the place of concealment of the women was found, being the home of Sadik Bey, Halit Bey's father's brother.

Q. What happened regarding the matter of the 361 oxen?

A. In accordance with orders ^{received} from the army commander, those born in 311, 312, and 313 and those recently called into the service could serve in the ranks of the Special Organization. Meanwhile, Halit Bey, as Tuluyi Bey knows, drove some of the

some-
thing
missing

311 = 1895, 312 = 1896, 313 = 1897

1895

enlisted born in 311 and a new recruit from Kemak by the name of Ali, by the time the affairs had already become confused.

Q. What do you mean by "Sixth Article"?

A. My purpose was to answer this question which was understood by force.

If a question had been asked about the mercenaries, I would have said to Tahsin Bey that the men I counted are the mercenaries. Even for the sake of an incident, Cafir Bey was to be turned over to the Court-Martial; however, he found the way of getting out of it. I've heard all these events from Mehmet Necati (Piré Mehmet) Efendi of Erzirum. He knows the details. Necati Bey has especially made them public in the presence of Rifat Bey, Zade Nihat Bey, Adil Bey and others with whom he was also in jail.

Q. Is the person referred to in the fifth article the commander of the gendarmerie?

A. He is Captain Ismayil Efendi, commander of the Erzincan battalion. Corporal Tatar Selim of Kuru Cay and the civil official in charge of deeds in Refahiye know that he (Ismayil) has usurped the goods given and counted as per the (fifth) article.

This matter was to be brought up before the Court-Martial also, but somehow it got buried. Ismayil Efendi has taken the gold watch from sergeant-major Mustafa Efendi, of the police force, but I don't know where the latter obtained it. Captain Resit Efendi, of the Kemak police force, now retired, has information regarding this matter.

Q. What meaning does the sentence marked with red ink have?

A. The task of deporting and driving the Armenian caravans was so pleasant and sought after that they (those who wished to obtain such a position) offered sums of money to those guarding the caravans so that the caravan be turned over to them. The same strategy had been adopted in the case of transfer and delivery mentioned and noted in that paragraph. I heard all this when corporal Selim was telling Mustafa Efendi.

Mirza Mazhar

As for me, I was imprisoned as a consequence of another incident.

They confined 1244 Armenians from the Spir and Erz^arum caravans in the Kemak church and four houses.

At that time, I was confined in the governorate building. Halit Bey, Seydi Bey and Canip Bey came and sat down in the Armenian school and, having had the Armenians brought there, they searched them, four at a time.

Mustafa Efendi, lieutenant-sergeant-major of the police force, sometimes ^{one time} commander of the Kuru Çay detachment, had the job of watching over me. One of those who searched the Armenians was also (this) Mustafa Efendi, who would come and relate what was going on. Once I was even present during the search operation. They took and confiscated everything they found on the Armenians they had searched. Sometimes they beat the Armenians to obtain the money kept on them.

They confiscated all their jewels and money. Probably the amount of money gotten was at least 1200 gold pounds (\$42,000). One of Seydi Bey's mercenaries even, Mehmet Kamil Aga, took the shoes and short jackets ^{stolen} pillaged from Armenians and sold them in the market place of Kemak.

The supervision of the Erzirum caravan had been assigned to the cavalry captain whose birthplace and name I ^{not} don't remember.

Accompanying this captain were Nizam ^{ett.} Eddin Efendi, non-commissioned police force officer, the aid-de-camp of Ismayil Efendi, police officer and inspector of military discipline, and another gendarme officer, all of whom are known to Tuluyi Bey, the ex-governor of the Gemerek region and presently governor of the Cesin district.

I ^{not} don't know whether or not the Beys who were searching the Armenians had a warrant. I haven't ^{not} given orders to search, because I wasn't ^{not} responsible for the caravan. The official responsible for that caravan should have authorized the search.

April 23, 1916.

Accused: Mirza Mazhar

Mirza Mazhar's second testimony

April 24, 1916.

Q. You state that Seydi Bey, Canip Bey, Mahir Bey and Dr. Fuat Bey have massacred the Armenians. Who are the massacred Armenians? Where and in whose presence did their massacre take

place?

A. They tied and bound approximately 1400 Armenians from the Erzurum caravan in Kemak. Seydi Bey and Canip Bey massacred the first group of them, and Seydi Bey alone massacred the second group of them in the vicinity of the Sagirlar ward.

At that time, I was in jail, from where I saw and observed the garrotting of Armenians, such that the first time they brought back the ropes used to tie them, they were colored with blood; I concluded that those who were bound and taken away had been massacred. The governor of the Eftik region was also an eyewitness of this massacre but he refuses to say anything because he is Halit Bey's friend.

Q. In the second paragraph of your testimony, you state that they have taken a sum of approximately 1200 gold pounds (\$42,000) from the Erzurum caravan, while, in the third paragraph, you say that just the bill and money taken from Sarafian amounted to 1740 gold pounds (\$60,900). Are these amounts different from one another?

A. Promising to save Sarafian, they demanded money; his family, together with their goods, were gone, having been previously driven away. Sarafian says that he ^{has} doesn't have any money on him. Seydi Bey and Fuat Bey then say to him, "You sign a promissory note in our name; one of our men will accompany you. You ^{will} go and meet up with your family and get the sum required and hand it over to our men."

Sarafian and a few policemen accept the offer. Thus they give the promissory notes and join up with the caravan, gather up the money possessed by the families and give 740 gold pounds (\$25,900). Although I was in jail during those days, Seydi Bey and Fuat Bey were talking about this in prison on the floor below my room and I heard their conversation. Sometimes I would go down to the first floor because I was under supervision. So, this way, he himself...

The accomplices of the Governor-General of Trebizond.

Murat, police commissioner, with his eight accomplices and groups of other comrades.

The co-worker of the governor of Gümüşhane was cavalry sergeant-major Mirza Efendi, officer of the garrison, with four soldiers from the staff of officials of the "Special Organization," who, in compliance with his demand, were sent by the governor Bey, and Necati Bey and Behaeddin Sakir Bey, commanders leading and administering the "Special Organization." The names Gök Demir, Doğan, Şahin, Yildirim and So-pac^e Hakki of Erzurum have been given to me.

Mecit Bey, inspector of Erzincan, abducted the two daughters of Sarafian, native of Erzincan, appropriated for himself the 1200 gold pounds (\$42,000) they had and took them to Constantinople.

In his capacity as vice-governor, he ordered me to go to Kemak. I wired the governor of Gümüşhane about this;

since I didn't^{not} get a reply, I left with the certificate I had on me.

August 1, 1915

First sergeant-major of the cavalry

Mirza

This is the second statement of Mirza Mazhar Efendi

April 23, 1916

Q. How much money did the governor of Kilkit and Mehmet Efendi, the district financial officer, take from the Armenians? What kinds of money were these? Were there also jewels? How many Armenians were there? Where were the moneys^{was} taken? Were you present and who else were present?

A. I wasn't^{not} in Kilkit. There were 40-70 Armenian households in Kilkit. The kaymakam had these Armenians assembled. He confined them in the church and had them exiled.

I went to Kilkit by orders of governor Abdul Kadir Bey on a mission to carry out an investigation regarding Armenians hid by Turks. I carried out searches; I located 27 Armenians in different places wearing various disguises and turned them over to the government. These were exiled.

In accordance with the accounts told by Adil Bey of the general populace, Emin Efendi, merchant of Gümüşhanë, sergeant-major Sukri Efendi, in charge of surveillance of roads, and Nedim Çavus, the kaymakam has confined the Armenians in the church and stood guard himself in front of the door;

Haci Efendi, in turn, has gathered the moneys on the Armenians inside (the church).

These latter two have taken 70 gold pounds (\$2450) from the family and mother-in-law of Mihran Butanian, and 45 gold pounds (\$1575) from the family of Misak Yemenician. I learned of these events from their wives when I encountered them in Kemak.

I don't^{not} know what they took from others. The abovementioned sergeant-major of the police force and other persons told me about this.

Q. Where are Mihran Butanian's and Misak's wives now?

A. I don't^{not} know where they are; I only know that, on July 19, and on August 9, 1915, Mihran's 18-year-old wife was at the house of a 23-year-old youth, assistant to the doctor of the Kemak municipality; I don't^{not} remember this young man's name. Misak's 25 year-old wife was staying at Halit^e Bey's house as a seamstress. I saw them personally and learned from them what I'm^{am} saying (now).

Q. Which caravans did Cafir Bey, Seydi Bey, and Canip Bey search and pillage goods from? Who was the supervisor or guardian of the caravan? Where did the search take place? Did these Efendis have official orders? If not, how was this usurpation authorized?

A. Before the deportation and exile of the Armenians, a gang was formed and organized by Halit^e Bey, Gökce Seydi (lieutenant-officer), Canip Bey from Erzurum^e and others to decide where the Armenian caravans would pass through in the vicinity of

Kemak.

The job of this gang was to pillage and plunder the caravans. When I arrived in Kemak from Trebizond with the second caravan, these men were there. Cafir Bey was also there with a gang of men on horseback. The Spir and Erzirum caravans were following my caravan. I drove my caravan ahead...

footnote The ultimate purpose of the Court was to find out the quantity of money and jewels ^{stolen} plundered from the caravans of Armenians so that the government's share be established on the basis of the agreement reached beforehand.

Regarding the case of Armenians, the instructions given by the governor-general were put into effect as an official responsibility.

The kaymakams and mudirs of the various regions followed the same instructions. Therefore, in this connection, those who carried out the orders given were, in Kilkit, the kaymakam of Kilkit, of the government of the province of Trebizond, Siran, the Kaymakam of Siran, Dr. Fuat Bey, Inspector Macit Bey, Mehmet Gani Bey in Erzincan, one of the administrators of the Special Organization, Representative Halit Bey in the Kemak region, and the commanders of the police force companies in the centers of their districts.

2. - Then, as regards the Kaymakam of Refahiye in the matter mentioned, you can understand that he has sold jewelry worth

500 or 200 gold pounds (\$17,500-\$7,000) to the Kaymakam of Kuru Cay and the inspectors; this kaymakam, in turn, has sold them to the accountant and the director of the land registry.

Each kaymakam had created, in his region, an organization or association of joint interests and all these unlawful acts took place with the knowledge of the higher civil officials^{authorities}.

Speaking about the crimes committed, it is common knowledge and evident that the Armenians were massacred in the Sagirlar¹ ward of Kemak like the day Koco Oglu Osman was killed.

It has been established by the records of the Erzincan and Kemak post offices that a package or deposit worth 30,000 piastres (\$10,500) was sent to Constantinople. On this occasion, I request that you deem it necessary to examine the registers of the post offices. This is the most important matter. The governors-general can not be the defenders of the criminals.

It is necessary that they (the governors) thoroughly investigate all the events which have taken place until the real facts are disclosed; so Cafir Bey of the Special Organization has^{stolen} plundered goods and animals from the Armenian caravans passing through Tercan, Kemak and the surrounding areas; while Abu Hindi was transporting them to his village, on the way, when he reached Uc Kalé, the commander of this area's military garrison gives orders that everything be seized for the government; Cafir Bey, with the complicity of his uncle and associates, kills an innocent Moslem in front of the governorate. And, despite the fact that

the chief of the military garrison arrests him and sends him, together with a dossier, to the center there, he goes and does as he pleases because His Excellency Governor-General Tahsin Resit protects him.

The blood of the innocent must be sought out.

The need for security requires the undertaking of the responsibility, with the cooperation of the army commander, of getting rid of one or more persons. Therefore, that man who ordered the killing of 33 Moslems in Kigi with the complicity of his mercenaries and, under whose command, Seydi Bey of the Special Organization and Hulusi Bey, police commissioner of Erzurum, were working, having assumed the responsibility of deporting and driving the Armenians (caravans) of Tercan, must naturally be known to the government.

Where is the sum of 4000 gold pounds (\$140,000) that Abu Hindi knows of?

Representative Halit Bey's co-workers

Condemned as guilty of murder - Ihsan of Erzincan,

Mirto of Yali Bey,

Muđir of Cenizke - Adil Efendi,

" " Eftik - Abdullah "

" " Mumeyeren - Azia ",

Ali Bey of Kemak, born in 311, and his servants.

1 (footnote for page 69)

While 700 were being killed in the Sagirlar ward, one of the bullets missed its mark and killed Koşo Oğlu Osman.

The co-workers of the Governor-General of Erzurum

Seydi Bey of the Special Organization

Cafir Bey " " " "

Canip Bey of Abu Hindi and his accomplices,

Representative Halit Bey, leader; when he came to Erzincan, the governor-general, summoning him to his office, consulted him about every matter; one time he had sent the head of the record-office when the third group of the Armenian caravans from Erzurum was there.

The co-workers of the commander of the police force battalion of Erzincan.

Gendarme Incé Mehmet of Sivas,

Mahmut of Tokat,

Through their means, he sent the plundered money to his home in Sivas; there is a notebook with record of payment regarding these shipments; it is possible to verify this in case of need. You can cross-examine the gendarmerie commander and others.

The testimony of Mirza Efendi who has requested to be interrogated again in order to explain the events in detail.

July 24, 1916.

Record, p. 58:

Q. You have requested to be interrogated once more in order to relate the event in detail; write down the information you have to give or state the explanations you desire to make.

A. (1) Cemal Azmi Bey, Governor-General of Trebizond, organized a second Special Organization group consisting of eight leaders headed by commissar Murat Bey. This group arrived in Gümüşhane.

Upon orders of the governor, I came to the center. ^(where?)

At the same time, the Governor-General of Trebizond ordered Murat Bey for him, together with his group, to join us in order to carry out the task of deporting and driving the Armenian caravans of Kilkit, Siran, Gümüşhane and Trebizond. I ^{not} don't know whether or not the moneys^{was stolen}, which were taken from the Armenians who were pillaged and deported, were turned over to the post office by means of the regional kaymakam and the accountant Mehmet Efendi. The wife of Mihran Butanian of Kilkit, who was at the office of the municipal doctor of Erzincan, and the wife of Misak, abducted by Halit Bey, Representative from Erzincan, ^{told me} (gave me information) about this matter.

The governor instructed the kaymakam of Kemak by cable to submit this matter to an investigation.

(20) The Governor-General ⁽¹⁾ of Erzurum had sent from the "Special Organization" of Erzincan ^e Cafir Bey of Erzurum, Seydi Bey and Canip Bey, who searched and pillaged the caravan of Trebizond assigned to me ^{2nd} (or) to my ^{command} protection, and took 1200 gold pounds (\$42,000), jewels, gold rings, watches, and the goods and vessels belonging to the Catholic Church. They had promised to turn the booty over to the government but I ^{not} don't know if they did so or not.

(1) TAHSIN BEY

orders

Contrary to the instructions of the Governor-General Bey, Seydi Bey and Canip Bey have massacred the males of the caravans near Nezkıp in the presence of Dr. Fuat Bey, Mecit Bey, delegate plenipotentiary of the Union (Party) in Erzincan, and the müdir of the Eftik region.

3. During the course of the search of the Erzirum caravans, a promissory note in the amount of 1000 gold pounds (\$35,000), 740 gold pounds (\$25,900), jewels, and gold watches were plundered and taken by force from the Sarafian family; besides this, 361 oxen and more than 2000 ox-drawn carts were taken as booty; I don't know where and at which garrison they were turned over to.

Regarding the moneys plundered, the entire amount was taken to Halit Bey's house. Those who took it are the President of the Kemak tribunal, sergeant-major Mustafa Efendi, commander of the police force battalion and the Kuru Çay guardhouse at the same time, Fuat Bey and Canip Bey.

4. Tahsin Bey, leader of the Special Organization and Governor-General of Erzirum, had designated as representatives Halit Bey and Seydi Bey who selected the majority of the beautiful and rich Armenians of the female sex and abducted them as artisans. The ex-regional kaymakam was also aware of this occurrence. In the presence of the president of the tribunal and Halit Bey, the legal position of Armenian women and girls kept and held in this way, and on this pretext, was revived. If this matter had the nature of an offense or a criminal act, necessity would, of course, demand that the names of Halit Bey, the president of the penal court,

little

Confusing
Suggest a clearer text

and the Governor-General of Erzurum ^{included} be mentioned. In accordance with the law, those in the top levels, who have been authors or accomplices of crimes or any offense whatsoever, are subjected to the severest of penalties.

5. Halit Bey, in charge of the Special Organization, enrolled ¹ or drafted young men born in 311.

He (Halit Bey) realized the desires of Governor-General Tahsin Bey and his co-workers. This fact is as obvious as the sun.

6. The co-workers and accomplices of the Governor-General of Erzurum were Cafir Bey, Seydi Bey, and Canip Bey from the Special Organization and Halit Bey, who was in charge of them and who subjected the monetary booty to his surveillance and control, and whose associates are Captain Ismail Hakki, commander of the police force battalion of Erzincan, Inci Mehmet, Mahmut Cavus of Tokat and their accomplices.

In particular, the police force commander has plundered the Kuru Cay, Refahiye, Kemak and Erzincan caravans; it isn't ^{not} known where he put the booty taken; besides the goods, (there was) a watch worth 32 gold pounds (\$1120). Corporal Selim, of the Kuru Cay police force detachment, had worked under his command; he has explained the details of this matter ^{correctly} well.

Mirza Mazhar

¹ He drafted means that he took 21 year old youths, who should have been soldiers in the army, into the ranks of criminals of the Special Organization.

M. 397

Q. You especially have taken quite a lot of money from the caravan before reaching Gümüşhane.

A. Not at all. The mutessarif even was ^{appreciative} ~~thankful~~ that I deported the caravan without incident.

Q. You have taken the ~~males~~ of your caravan as far as the Maran-
kel valley and there they have been cruelly slaughtered and thrown
into previously dug ditches in the presence of you and your sol-
diers.

A. I have never been there. I took the soldiers under my com-
mand with me and we departed for Trebizond. The twelve soldiers
of my detachment were given to me only on orders from the gover-
nor. I don't ^{not} remember their names.

Q. Now ^{swear} confirm your testimony.

A. I confirm it.

September 6, 1915

Commander of the 2nd company of the mobile
police force battalion of Trebizond.

First Corporal Agah.

P. 52 of the record of inquiry.

A/section of the recorded testimony of Mehmet, son of Dursun, is
given below.

Lieutenant-officer Cemil Efendi and I were in charge of a-
bout a hundred persons. We were at the village of Rigonos near
Trebizond. Our center was there. ^{headquarters} We had undertaken the task of
assembling the Armenians from the surrounding villages and depor-

ting them to Gümüşhane.

We reached the valley named Sara. There they were dispersed to different places in groups of ten-fifteen. After assembling the Armenians, we all ^{Met} (got together) in the village of Kapan, an hour and a half from the Sara valley. The job of driving the Armenian caravans from the village of Kapan to Gümüşhane was given to us; Hassan Cavus of Rize was also with us. The latter had gone to a different village; I don't ^{not} know where he is now. We walked for five or six days in order to go from Kapan to Gümüşhane. The Trebizond caravan was in Gümüşhane. Agah Efendi and Fayik Efendi were the leaders of this caravan. We, in turn, were subject to their orders. They gathered up the males of both our and the Trebizond caravans. They only turned the women and children over to us. There were 60-70 year old ones also among them. We came out of Gümüşhane with Ismayil Efendi, gang chief of Rize, and Fayik Efendi. In one of the rest houses located three hours away, at a place called Teke Hanlar, we gave the caravans a ^{rest} break. At night Fayik Efendi and Ismayil Efendi, by candlelight, searched the Armenians and took the moneys ^{from the} (possessed by) the rich ones. I was keeping watch nearby. I saw everything with my own eyes. In the morning, Ismayil Efendi took the moneys ^{stolen} pillaged which had been placed in a handkerchief and returned to Gümüşhane. The same day, we paused where we were. Fayik Efendi gave each soldier one gold pound (\$35).

I ^{not} don't know how much money Ismayil Efendi had or what Fayik Efendi took. I ^{not} don't know how much the two of them together collected.

I took the caravan to a place on the other side of Kemak in the direction of Erzincan and there I turned it over to a group whose men were either gendarmes or bandits; it wasn't ^{not clear} apparent.

Then we returned to Erzincan.

September 15, 1915

Mehmet, son of Tosun.

This is the testimony of Ali, son of Aziz Aga, of the family of Demerce, of the village "Sinir Bey" of Rize.

September 15, 1915.

We came out with a group consisting of a hundred persons, which was headed by Celil Efendi, platoon officer from the village of Rifolon. It was nighttime. They plundered the Armenians at the place called Teke Han near Daldaban. Ismayil of Rize, lieutenant-officer Fayik and clerk Osman lit candles and gathered the moneys ^{from} (possessed by) the rich ones of the caravan. During that period, it was my turn at guard duty. After serving my shift, I went over to those who were searching the Armenians by candlelight and saw what took place. I ^{not} don't know how much money they collected. They loaded the gold pounds, mecidiyes, and gold objects into a bag and, in the morning, I saw that Ismayil Efendi, with a handkerchief full of money in his hand, was going towards Gümüşhane.

The next day Fayik Efendi gave each of the soldiers one gold pound. I also got one. We turned over control of the Armenians in the Kemak region.

Aziz, son of Ginc Ali

A section of the sworn testimony of Ardas (named Arsak by mistake) of Erzincan, worker in the Eserköy Kolu garrison.

p. 54

The Trebizond caravan was advancing towards Eserköy. We heard the sound of a gun. Cur Allah Efendi asked Fayik Efendi who had approached the garrison, the reason for the detonation. The latter replied, "That's none of your business; I'm an officer."

Then Cur Allah said, "I'm the commander of this guardhouse. Why are you firing a weapon near the guardhouse? Now I'm going to give word to the competent authorities."

He got on his horse and rode to Erzincan, an hour away.

Ardas

This is the testimony of Agah Efendi, commander of the second group of the first detachment of the mobile gendarmerie company of Trebizond.

September 6, 1915.

Q. State your identity.

A. My name is Agah Efendi; my father's name is Rifat; my birth-place is Ak Sera, Constantinople. I'm 29 years old and literate; I have no children. I have pursued a military career. I entered

military academy in 1907 and, in June 1911, I became an infantry-lieutenant, first lieutenant of the mobile gendarmerie in Salonika in 1911. During the Balkan Wars, I was in Yania; after ^{released} getting out of ^{from} captivity, I was designated 2nd class drill master in the Trebizond gendarmerie academy; I remained in this post until the general mobilization. With the proclamation of mobilization, I was designated superintendent of public order in Trebizond, and lastly I am commander of the first detachment of the Trebizond gendarmerie regiment cadre; I still hold this same post.

Q. When you were in Trebizond, you were superintendent in charge of the deportation of the caravans of Armenians and till what place were you superintendent of deportation? With what qualifications did you manage this position? Did unlawful acts take place in that region?

A. They assigned me superintendent for the deportation of the first caravan. We were to take the caravan from Trebizond to Gümüşhane. The caravan consisted of 500-600 persons; several Armenians from areas in that region also joined the caravan, (but they were few.)

There were fifty soldiers with me and lieutenant Fayik Efendi at the time of our departure from Trebizond. The detachment commander was Huseyin Efendi who is now a ^{prisoner} captive in the hands of the Russians. He had given orders that there be another officer with Agah Efendi. I, in turn, was willing to take Fayik Efendi with me. I took the caravan as far as Gümüşhane. In Gümüşhane, I turned the caravan over to Mutessarif Abdil Kadir Bey.

this extracts on previous sentence

Towards evening, just at the prayer hour about twelve o'clock, they wanted a few guards because they didn't^{not} have enough (of them). I ^{assigned} gave about 25 soldiers. That night the caravan was ~~thus~~ guarded near the guardhouse in a large khan with the men and women separate, one ^{group} on one side, one ^{group} on the other.

Their separation took place by order of the mutessarif. In the morning, they deported the men under the supervision of the guard-gendarmes taken from us, with their overseers.

to take?
The Mutessarif Bey summoned me. He wanted an overseer from my group to deport the women to Erzincan. I found Fayik Efendi suitable and summoned him and said, "You shall take these women to Erzincan and turn them over there." I then left for Trebizond with my attendant soldiers.

Q. You have summoned lieutenant-officer Fayik Efendi to Gümüşhane. Fayik Efendi attests that you said and ordered, "You shall take the women together to Erzincan; you shall ^{confiscate} collect the ^{money of} Armenians' moneys at the place called Konak; take 1% for us, hand over 2% to the gang; part of it shall be sent to the Committee. Take care that the Kurd bandits ^{must} don't ^{not} take the money."

Did you give this order?

A. Never; I haven't^{not} given such an order. The order (was) given together anyway, (not one of them...)
what is meant here?

Is such an order given in public?

Q. You have even said to the abovementioned (Fayik) Efendi: "The bandits became millionaires; Mirza Bey filled his pockets

with gold pieces. Why shouldn't we fill our pockets? They'll tell us we're stupid. They are massacring these Armenians completely; they killed their men right before our eyes; the bandits took all the money^{their}s." Have you said this?

A. I haven't said such a thing.

Agah

I didn't pay any attention. I refuted what they said; what they said was false; I can't accept any one's testimony because they're his men. I didn't kill any such person and I never got any word of that. It is likely that it's one of my attendants or one of the gendarmerie-inspector lieutenant guards passing through that place, who wanted to leave; even if they have done so, I don't know about it.

Q. How is that Armenian man you killed related to the Armenian woman you took?

A. I don't know, no male of the family's relatives came as far as the village of Eosbê; she had only a father. They arrested him in Gümüşhane; they had no one else besides the three sisters of my family, together with me.

Q. Sign your testimony.

A. I sign.

M. Fayik

President

Member

Judge of Inquiry

This is the second testimony of Fayik Efendi mentioned.

Q. When you and first-lieutenant Agah Efendi parted, which of his followers remained?

A. First-lieutenant Agah Efendi left us in Gümüşhane and went to Trebizond. When we separated, Behaeddin Cavus, Mehmet, servant of lieutenant Cemil Efendi, corporal Mehmet of Mütbaderé, of the second group (he was still working in intelligence), Sabit, Kadir Cavus of Ordu, of the foot-gendarmerie, and Huseyin, soldier from Vakif Kibir (this soldier is in Trebizond) were with us.

Q. Do these persons know that 3000 Armenians have been massacred by Agah Efendi's order?

A. We arrived in Gümüşhane; the ^{leader} head of the caravan was near the governorate; the end of the caravan was on the Aksi side and was spread out over a long distance. By orders of the mutessarif Bey, they arranged them in two rows, the men on one side, the women on the other; Mirza Bey was chief of the Kurd gang. I heard that the aforementioned Mirza has been arrested in Kemak because he killed one gendarme and one policeman.

After ^{grouping} arranging the Armenians in this manner, Mutessarif Bey and Mirza Bey separated the eldest ones and put them with the women. They left ^{the} those children under thirteen years of age with the women also. They assigned the men to me; I took them in the direction of Erzurum to Kadir Aga's ^{the} khan located two thousand meters from the governorate. I ^{placed} situated them there: Mustafa of Rize, corporal Behaeddin Cavus in front of me;

Möhsen of Rize (3); behind me; Hafiz in front (4), (arrested in Erzirum), (his) comrade Eyup (5), secretary Osman Efendi (6); these two were also arrested in Erzirum, corporal Mehmet of Meyadr (7), muleteer Mehmet (one protected by Cemil Efendi) to my right and left, and four more persons whose names I don't^{not} remember - I ^{assigned} designated them as guards and situated them; we took care of this matter at one thirty in the morning. At that time, Agah Efendi and Murat Bey, Trebizond gang-chief, were staying together in a room and he (Agah) was aware of these ^{incidents} (happenings.)

continued After ^{? Settling} situating these Armenians, I went to company commander Agah Efendi. They were eating supper. On orders received from higher authorities, I went over to the women ^{assembled} arranged in front of the governorate; I gave the guards there a ^{relieved} break. Again I went over to the company commander; I slept there; when we awoke in the morning, I left with the women for Erzincan, following the company commander's order.

The men remained in Kadir Oglu's khan.

First-lieutenant Agah Efendi and twelve persons ^{remained} (left) as guards, and another hundred soldiers (gang members) stayed in Gümüşhane.

After massacring the Armenian males, they piled them ~~up~~ in previously prepared ditches in the Mavrankil valley, twelve hours distant from Gümüşhane.

Twelve persons know this and they told me about it.

I don't^{up} know whether Agah Efendi was present at the time of the massacre or not; the one named Mirza Bey and his comrade were

there.

(Indeed) this man (has) collected 7000 gold pounds (\$24, 500) from the Armenians, i.e. he has ^{ransacked} gathered that sum from the corpses of the massacred Armenians.

F ayik

This is the sworn testimony of Mustafa Oglu Cadallah Kemal, one of Houraci Zade's sons, of the Toru ward, from the district of Cezire in the region of Mardin, commander of the Esekör guardhouse, one of the corporals of the gendarme officers' garrison of Erzincan.

August 27, 1915.

Q. Tell us about the information you gave.

A. I was the commander of the gendarmerie guardhouse in Esekör. I had thirty permanent and mobile gendarmes under my command. Our job was to supervise the Armenian caravans coming and going. The day I gave you the information, I heard the sound of a weapon; I took seven of the Erzirum gendarmes with me; I went ahead; the commander of the caravan Fayik Efendi came up to us. I asked him what the sound of the gun was from. He said that he had hit ~~an~~ Armenian man because he was old and couldn't ^{not} start ^{walk} walking. I asked him if he had any orders or not and whether he had killed any one by using a weapon. In reply, he said, "I have a warrant in my hand from the Mutessarif of Gümüşhane to kill people." I wanted to see the warrant. He said he ^{not} didn't have a gun and he ^{not} didn't show me the order. I said that the maintenance of law and order in this area was my ^{assignment} job. He said, "If you want, file a com-

plaint against me; my name is Fayik." I, in turn, filed a complaint against him.

Q. Who was the gendarme with you?

A. They were soldiers from the second mobile gendarmerie battalion¹ of Erzurum; they came by mutual agreement; I don't^{not} know their names. Yahia Mesudiye Hasan of the village of Catkenc in the Erzincan region, corporal Isak of the Erzurum battalion, Arsak, presently working in the gendarmerie guardhouse of Kolo Cekmez in the Erzincan region, Simpat, and all the soldiers heard what Fayik said.

Q. Seal your testimony.^{swear}

A. I seal it.^{swear}

Seal - Cadallah

¹ they were ceté in gendarme uniforms.

This is the second statement of the aforementioned Fayik Efendi.

August 29, 1915.

Q. Why did you kill the Armenian when you were passing near Es-ekör with the caravan?

A. I didn't^{not} kill him; I don't^{not} know who killed him.

Q. Regarding the old Armenian, who couldn't^{not} walk, that you killed or had was killed by your orders, whom did you tell that you killed him?

A. I didn't^{not} say anything.

Q. When they asked you why you killed this Armenian, at that time you said that you had orders in hand and you didn't^{not} show those orders to them; you only said that your name is Fayik, if you wish to register a complaint against me.

A. No, I didn't^{not} say that.

Q. If they testify that you said those things, what will you do?

A. I can't^{not} give any information about this because this corporal threatened me; the sound of a weapon came and he asked me what it was. That kind of insolence is contrary even to military courtesy, i.e. a corporal, hardly having arrived on the scene, asks that question when I ^{am} a high-level officer. I told him he didn't^{not} have the right to ask me such a question. Contrary to that, in the presence of soldiers ~~facing me~~, he wished to jump on me, making such disrespectful comments whereupon I ordered that they tie up this corporal; a few sergeants there interfered and I, in turn, didn't^{not} want to complain against him, yet he went to Erzincan to make a complaint^a against me. He charged me as having ^{stolen} usurped money and pillaged the caravan; he said something about an Armenian. He was waiting on the road to make up with me; he was probably going to ask something from me, I never...him... see p. 79, 80.

Fayik.

M 401

This is the testimony of Huseyin Oglu Eyup, of Sari Ali descent, accused of having pillaged, from the village of Lafa Tomruk in the Off district, of the second class of the first detach-

ment of the mobile gendarmerie regiment of Trebizond, literate, without family, no children, 20 years old, who shows a legal record of no convictions.

August 15, 1915.

Q. I^{am} reading your statement given to the Court-Martial of the 29th division. Pay attention; if it^{is} true, confirm it.

A. My statements are correct. I confirm them.

Q. Who said that Agah Efendi has given the order to plunder the goods belonging to the Armenians?

A. Batah Ali of Off, one of our group, told me.

Q. Did Agah Efendi give the order in Gümüşhane to Fayik Efendi for him to ^{confiscate} collect the Armenians' ^{money of the} moneys?

A. I ^{not} don't know about this. He sent only the group commander and the bandit Ismayil together with us.

Q. When Fayik Efendi was gathering up the money, you were there. Who divided (up) this money? How many had a share of the money? Do you know? What was your share?

A. I ^{not} wasn't with him; the bandit Ismayil divided it up; I ^{not} don't know how much they divided (up) and how much each portion was.

Q. When the bandit Ismayil left you, did he take money and ^{valuable} precious goods with him?

A. I saw rings and various items bunched up in a handkerchief.

Q. ^{swear} Seal your statement.

A. ^{swear} I seal it.

Accused: Eyup

Investigating Judge:

Member of the Court:

President:

atrocities
This is the statement of Rusin Oglu Osman, of the Kondakci descent, accused as guilty of having committed plunder, from the Emaret ward of Trebizond, literate.

August 25, 1915.

Q. ^{2m} ~~I'm~~ reading your statement made to the Court-Martial of the 29th division; pay attention, is it correct?

A. The aforementioned statement of mine is correct.

Q. Did group commander Agah Efendi give Fayik Efendi orders in Gümüşhane to ^{confiscate} (gather up) the money belonging to Armenians?

A. I don't ^{not} know whether Agah Efendi has given the order; only when Fayik Efendi was ^{taking} collecting the money, he said he was doing so on orders of the government.

Q. You saw that Fayik Efendi turned over 155 gold pounds (\$5425) and numerous valuable articles to gang-chief Ismayil.

A. At the time of departure, I saw a bundled handkerchief in gang chief Ismayil's hand but I don't ^{not} know its contents.

Q. How much was the money collected and recorded in the notebook?

A. The amount ^{not} isn't known; large sums of money collected were not recorded in the register because Fayik Efendi gave instructions ^{That} for all of ^{the money was} them not to be recorded.

Q. ^{swear} Confirm your testimony.

A. ^{swear} I confirm it.

Accused: Osman

The warrant was given to arrest (temporarily) the accused Ibrahim Oglu Seyf Eddin, Huseyin Oglu Eyup and Rusin Oglu Osman.

President Member Judge of Inquiry
Resit Mehmet Ali Ali Elvi

certified
June 21, 1915 (?)
President of Court-Martial: Sukri